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6 IN RE: TOBACCO LITIGATION CIVIL ACTION  
7 NO. 00-C-6000  
8 (MEDICAL MONITORING CASES) (Judge Arthur M. Recht)  
9 Judge Tod J. Kaufman)  
10 -----  
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13  
14 Deposition of:  
15  
16 WILLIAM SCHAFFNER, MD  
17  
18 Taken on behalf of the Plaintiffs  
19  
20 August 28, 2000  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

2  
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## I N D E X

Examination by Mr. Jekel 14

## EXHIBITS

	Exhibit No. 1	33
17	Exhibit No. 2	36
	Exhibit No. 3	39

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S T I P U L A T I O N

The deposition of WILLIAM SCHAFFNER,

MD, was taken by counsel for the Plaintiffs at the Vanderbilt Medical Center North, B-1124, Nashville, Tennessee, beginning at 1:00 p.m. on August 28, 2000, for all purposes under the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure.

The formalities as to notice, caption, and reading and signing of the deposition are waived. All objections, except as to the form of the questions, are reserved to the hearing.

It is agreed that Nancy Satoloe, being a Notary Public and Court Reporter for the State of Tennessee, may swear the witness, and that the reading and signing of the completed deposition by the witness are not waived.

\* \* \*

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5

WILLIAM SCHAFFNER, MD  
was called as a witness, and after having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MR. JEKEL:

Q. Good afternoon, Dr. Schaffner. My name is -- is it Schaffner?

A. Yes.

Q. You'll have to speak up so that the folks on the other end of the line can hear us. I'm sure they'll let us know if they don't hear you.

My name is Fritz Jekel. I'm one of the attorneys representing the plaintiffs in this action. Have you had your deposition taken before?

A. I have.

Q. All right. You know the ground rules. It will be important for you to allow me to finish my question before you give an answer. Also allow the folks participating on the telephone an opportunity to let us know if they can't hear and for counsel to raise an objection.

If you answer a question, I will

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6

assume you understood it. If at any time you need more information in which to answer my question, let me know and I'll do my best to make it answerable.

If you need a break at any time, let me know and we'll go from there.

Dr. Schaffner, do you have a file in this matter?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you bring it with you?

A. I did.

Q. Can I take a look at it?

13 For the benefit of the folks  
14 participating by phone, I'm just going to identify  
15 the materials that are in the doctor's file.  
16 The first item is his Expert Witness  
17 Disclosure. The second item is the Third Amended  
18 Complaint in the Blankenship matter. The next  
19 item is the Revised Report of David Burns; it has  
20 some highlighting and some tabs. The third --  
21 would you identify -- or fourth item, sorry, would  
22 you identify this for the record?  
23 A. This is a report of Dr. Donald B.  
24 Luria.  
25 Q. Okay. All right. The next item is  
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7

1 from the May, 1998 Scientific News Front article.  
2 Is that the name of the publication?  
3 The West Virginia Medical Journal,  
4 I'm sorry, May 1988, Volume 84, page 177, "The  
5 Declining Incidence and Changing Epidemiological  
6 Pattern of Tuberculosis."  
7 The next item in the report is a --  
8 can you give us the source for that, Dr.  
9 Schaffner?  
10 A. These are a series of tables which we  
11 got from the CDC, Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention website. The tables are entitled  
13 "Tuberculosis Cases" and "Case Rates Per 100,000  
14 Population by State," and then I have them for the  
15 years 1996 through 1999.  
16 Q. All right. The next item is an  
17 article from the Lancet, Volume 354, July 10th,  
18 1999 entitled "Early Lung Cancer Action Project:  
19 Overall Design and Findings from Baseline  
20 Screening."  
21 The next item is an editorial from  
22 the Journal of the National Cancer Institute,  
23 Volume 92, No. 16, August 16th, 2000 entitled  
24 "Overdiagnosis: An Underrecognized Cause of  
25 Confusion and Harm in Cancer Screening."  
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8

1 The next item is also from the  
2 Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Volume  
3 92, No. 16, August 16th, 2000 entitled "Lung  
4 Cancer Mortality in the Mayo Lung Project: Impact  
5 and Extended Followup."  
6 The next item is also, I guess, from  
7 the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. It  
8 looks to be an article entitled "Lung Project  
9 Update Raises Issue of Overdiagnosing Patients" by  
10 a Laura Newman.  
11 Excuse me.  
12 The next article -- is this from the  
13 CDC?  
14 A. This is an article from the journal  
15 Clinical Infectious Diseases.  
16 Q. Okay. It's entitled "Histoplasmosis  
17 and Blastomycosis." Did I pronounce that  
18 properly? By a Bradsure.  
19 This next article is from the  
20 Seminars in Respiratory Infections, Volume 5, No.  
21 2, June, 1990 entitled "Histoplasmosis: Update

22 1989."  
23 Is BMJ the British Medical Journal?  
24 A. Yes.  
25 Q. The next article is from the British  
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9

1 Medical Journal, Volume 321, August 5th, 2000  
2 entitled "Smoking, Smoking Cessation, and Lung  
3 Cancer in the UK since 1950: Combination of  
4 National Statistics with Two Case Control Studies"  
5 by Peto, P-e-t-o, et al.

6 The next article is from the American  
7 Review of Respiratory Disease, Volume 105 from  
8 1972 entitled "A Combined Field and Laboratory  
9 Epidemic of Histoplasmosis Isolation from Bat  
10 Feces in West Virginia."

11 Do you know what journal this is  
12 from, Doctor?

13 A. I can't say for sure.

14 Q. Okay. It's an article entitled  
15 "Early Lung Cancer Action Project: Overall Design  
16 of Baseline Screening" by Henschke,  
17 H-e-n-s-c-h-k-e, Claudia I., it's dated -- I don't  
18 know if it has a date in here.

19 The next item is from the First  
20 International Conference on Screening for Lung  
21 Cancer, October 1st through 3rd, 1989. It sends a  
22 statement.

23 The next item is from Chest, June,  
24 2000 article entitled "Correlation of Tumor Size  
25 and Survival in Patients with Stage 1A Non-Small

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10

1 Cell Lung Cancer" by Patts, et al.

2 The next document is, I guess, from  
3 the National Cancer Institute, is that what this  
4 is called, the PDQ, Supportive Care? This is just  
5 a statement from the NCI on screening for lung  
6 cancer?

7 A. Looks that way to me.

8 Q. All right. Printed off the Internet,  
9 4-27-2000.

10 The next document is by -- this is a  
11 bit tedious, Doctor, but it will save us some  
12 time. It's an article by Dr. Strauss,  
13 S-t-r-a-u-s-s, "Lung Cancer Screening in  
14 Randomized Population Trials."

15 The next article is by Miettinen,  
16 M-i-e-t-t-i-n-e-n, "Screening for Lung Cancer: Do  
17 We Need Randomized Trials?"

18 The next article is by Diederich,  
19 D-i-e-d-e-r-i-c-h, and Lenzen, L-e-n-z-e-n,  
20 entitled "Radiation Exposure Associated with  
21 Imaging of the Chest: Comparison of Different  
22 Radiographic and CT Techniques."

23 We also have the expert report of  
24 Alfred B. Watson. We have a copy, the next item  
25 is a copy of the proceedings on the Second

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11

1 National Conference on Histoplasmosis from 1971;  
2 is that correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Appears to be a book by Charles C.  
5 Thomas, Publisher?  
6 A. And it's Chapter 15 in that book by  
7 Ajello, A-j-e-l-l-o, "Distribution of  
8 Histoplasma capsulatum in the United States."  
9 Q. Thank you, sir.  
10 The next article appears from the  
11 European Respiratory Journal, 1996, entitled  
12 "Clinical Spectrum of Pulmonary and Pleural  
13 Tuberculosis, a Report of 5,480 Cases" by Aktogu,  
14 A-k-t-o-g-u, et al.  
15 The next article is from the Journal  
16 of Thoracic Imaging, Volume 7, Issue 4, 1992  
17 entitled "Clinical Manifestations of Pulmonary  
18 Fungal Infections."  
19 Chapter 36, do you know, is that the  
20 only chapter?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. The next document is Volume 1,  
23 Textbook of Respiratory Medicine, Second Edition  
24 by Dr. Murray and Nadell, that's M-u-r-a-y, Chapter  
25 36, "Fungal Infections" by Drs. Davies and Sarosi,  
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12

1 S-a-r-o-s-i.  
2 The next article is from, I guess,  
3 it's Surgery Today entitled "Pulmonary  
4 Histoplasmosis in Japanese Male: Report of a  
5 Case." It's from 1998.  
6 We have another chapter from the  
7 Textbook of Respiratory Medicine, Second Edition.  
8 This happens to be Chapter 35, "Tuberculosis and  
9 Other Mycobacterial Diseases" by Hopewell and  
10 Bloom.  
11 The next document, Acta Radiologica,  
12 a Denmark publication entitled "Imaging of  
13 Tuberculosis-Experience from 503 Patients" by a  
14 Nyman, N-y-m-a-n, et al., 1996.  
15 The next article -- I don't know  
16 where it's from, but it's entitled "Pulmonary  
17 Infections Mimicking Cancer: A Retrospective,  
18 Three-year Review" by Dr. Rolston, R-o-l-s-t-o-n,  
19 et al.  
20 If, you know, if we had a list of  
21 these publications, it might move things along.  
22 But the next one is from the Journal  
23 of Thoracic Imaging, 1992 entitled "Thoracic  
24 Histoplasmosis" by Drs. Rubin, et al.  
25 The next article is from -- let's see  
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13

1 where it's from. The International Journal of  
2 Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, 1998, "Pulmonary  
3 Tuberculosis in the Adult in Low Prevalence Area:  
4 Is the Radiologic Presentation Changing" by Dr.  
5 Brande, B-r-a-n-d-e. I think it's actually Van  
6 den Brande. V-a-n space small d-e-n.  
7 The next item is Textbook of  
8 Pulmonary Diseases, Fifth Edition, Volume 1,  
9 edited by Dr. Baum, B-a-u-m, and Wallinski,  
10 Chapter 21 on Tuberculosis by Wallinski, 1994.  
11 The next article is entitled "Update:  
12 The Radiographic Features of Pulmonary

13 Tuberculosis," March, 1996 in the AJR by Woodring,  
14 W-o-o-d-r-i-n-g.

15 And the last in the stack, Diagnosis  
16 of Diseases of the Chest, Fourth Edition, Volume 2  
17 by Fraser, F-r-a-s-e-r, Chapter 27 on  
18 Mycobacteria. Do you know if that's the only  
19 chapter in there?

20 A. I think that's the only chapter.

21 Q. All right. Does this comprise your  
22 entire file in this matter?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Is this the entirety of the materials  
25 you will be relying on for your expected testimony

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14

1 in this action?

2 A. Well, in addition to this, I'll be  
3 relying on my background and experience and my  
4 general knowledge of the medical literature.

5 Q. Any other textbooks or articles that  
6 spring to mind that you would expect to testify at  
7 trial about?

8 A. Not at the moment.

9 Q. Okay. Did you compile these  
10 materials yourself, Dr. Schaffner?

11 A. The materials in there that came from  
12 me are the tuberculosis tables.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. And the chapter by Dr. Ajello on  
15 Histoplasmosis.

16 Q. All right. Why don't we take those  
17 out. There's the tuberculosis statements.

18 The other materials that are in this  
19 considerable stack, they were provided to you from  
20 where?

21 A. Mr. O'Tuel provided those.

22 Q. So the lawyers for RJR provided you  
23 the rest of your reliance materials; is that  
24 correct?

25 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of

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15

1 the question.

2 THE WITNESS: No. They just provided  
3 the rest of the materials in this list.

4 BY MR. JEKEL:

5 Q. Did you compile a list and provide it  
6 to counsel for RJR and say, can you obtain copies  
7 of these articles for me to rely upon, or did the  
8 counsel for RJR come to you and say, Dr.  
9 Schaffner, here is a list of materials we would  
10 like for you to rely on for your testimony, or  
11 something else?

12 A. Well, it was nothing quite like that.  
13 I know we had conversations, and I said, I'm going  
14 to provide some materials. If you think you have  
15 something -- my comments to them -- that you think  
16 I might -- that are in your files that would save  
17 me time, and I think this was the product of that.

18 Q. All right. Have you read all of the  
19 articles in this stack?

20 A. Not from first word to last, but I've  
21 looked at them all.

22 Q. Okay. Are there some in here that  
23 you've looked at that you do not anticipate  
24 relying on and that we cannot discuss today?  
25 A. Well, I'm not entirely sure what you  
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16

1 mean by that.

2 Q. Well, are there any materials in here  
3 for which you do not anticipate relying for the  
4 basis of your expected opinions at trial? After  
5 you reviewed it all, did you say, you know, I  
6 don't need this? Anything like that?

7 A. Well, I didn't say that, so I haven't  
8 thought about it in that kind of a selective way.

9 Q. All right. Well, thinking about it  
10 now, are there any articles or texts or anything  
11 in this stack that we just went through that as  
12 you sit here today you think to yourself, I'm not  
13 going to need this for my trial testimony, I will  
14 not rely on it?

15 A. Well, actually, my reliance comes  
16 from a vastly larger base than this because it's  
17 my whole experience and my general knowledge of  
18 the literature. I haven't thought of this as a  
19 special collection of materials that I will only  
20 go to, so I haven't given it that kind of thought.

21 Q. Do you know why counsel for RJR  
22 provided you some of these articles? Did they  
23 tell you what the purpose in that was?

24 A. Oh, I mean, clearly, I'm an  
25 infectious diseases person, and that's where I

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17

1 expect most of my comments to be, and we had had  
2 some discussions about my thoughts in that area,  
3 and I think they responded to that. For example,  
4 these textbook chapters on Histoplasmosis and  
5 Tuberculosis, I talked about those illnesses, and  
6 I think they were just trying to be helpful. I  
7 mean, there are lots of other textbooks and other  
8 parts of the medical literature that relate to  
9 histoplasmosis and tuberculosis that are available  
10 and that I have seen and used in the past.

11 Q. The textbook of Respiratory Medicine,  
12 is this a textbook that you use here at the  
13 college?

14 A. I'm not entirely sure what you mean  
15 by that. It may well be in the library and may be  
16 in the personal libraries of many people here. I  
17 don't know that for a fact.

18 Q. As I understand it, you do teach some  
19 medical students here?

20 A. Oh, yes.

21 Q. Do you teach them in respiratory  
22 medicine?

23 A. Is that "you" large or "you"  
24 personally?

25 Q. You personally.

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18

1 A. Of course, but I'm not a  
2 pulmonologist, and that's a text that's written by  
3 pulmonologists, but for sure infectious diseases



4 involve the respiratory tract, and we teach that.  
5 Q. Is this a textbook that you use in  
6 any of the courses that you, Dr. Schaffner, teach  
7 here at the medical college?  
8 A. We don't assign texts to courses in  
9 the way that it's done in undergraduate school.  
10 The medical library is available to the medical  
11 students. I have gone into that text from time to  
12 time in the past. I'm familiar with the text  
13 generally. I know that it exists.  
14 Q. Fine. Have you ever referred to this  
15 chapter in your teachings here at the college, the  
16 section on Fungal Infections?  
17 A. I can't recall that I have.  
18 Q. Do you know what in here, in this  
19 chapter you will rely upon for your opinions in  
20 this matter?  
21 A. Well, it's a difficult question for  
22 me to answer. I don't know that there's anything  
23 that I could point out, a sentence or paragraph,  
24 et cetera, or section that relates specifically to  
25 my anticipated testimony, although --

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19

1 Q. Okay. I'm sorry.  
2 A. Although I'm trying to be responsive  
3 to your comments. This is a general chapter on  
4 Fungal Infections by Scott Davies and George  
5 Sarosi. The area that I have talked with the  
6 attorneys about and is reflected in other articles  
7 in this stack is histoplasmosis, so I dare say  
8 that would be the area that would receive most of  
9 my attention.  
10 Q. So if there's anything in that  
11 chapter on histoplasmosis, that's what you might  
12 use this for. Other than that, -- when was the  
13 last time you looked at this chapter?  
14 A. It was either Saturday night or last  
15 night.  
16 Q. Did you review the whole thing?  
17 A. I looked through it. I looked  
18 through all of this material.  
19 Q. Do you know if this chapter mentions  
20 the word lung cancer?  
21 A. No. I don't know that.  
22 Q. Dr. Schaffner, when were you first  
23 retained to provide expert services in the  
24 Blankenship matter?  
25 A. Fairly recently, sometime in the last

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20

1 several months. I couldn't tell you more  
2 specifically than that.  
3 Q. Was it beginning of the summer, let's  
4 say, April? Or the end of April? Was it after  
5 tax day, do you know?  
6 A. I don't know.  
7 Q. Is there anything in your file or  
8 your desk book or your calendar that might reflect  
9 the exact date upon which you were retained to  
10 provide services in this matter?  
11 A. No.  
12 Q. Have you rendered a bill to whoever

13 has retained you for your services in this matter  
14 to date?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. Do you anticipate issuing a bill for  
17 your services to date?  
18 A. I anticipate submitting a bill for  
19 services rendered. It may not be just this date;  
20 this may continue.  
21 Q. Yes. I assume that would include  
22 time preparing your expert disclosure?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. Your time talking with the attorneys  
25 about your areas of expertise?  
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21

1 A. Correct.  
2 Q. Your time reviewing the stack of  
3 materials and other reliance materials?  
4 A. Correct.  
5 Q. Okay. Who retained you in this  
6 matter?  
7 Who is your client?  
8 A. Mr. O'Tuel's firm.  
9 Q. I'd like to discuss the manner in  
10 which you were retained. Was it a telephone  
11 conversation?  
12 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
13 the question. What do you mean by manner in which  
14 you were retained?  
15 BY MR. JEKEL:  
16 Q. Let's talk about the first contact  
17 from the counsel for RJR. I'm assuming they made  
18 contact with you, Dr. Schaffner, and said, Dr.  
19 Schaffner, we're counsel for RJR. We'd like to  
20 retain your services or we'd like to discuss with  
21 you the possibilities of retaining your services.  
22 Did anything like that ever take place?  
23 A. I'm sure something like that took  
24 place.  
25 Q. Do you remember the first contact you  
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22

1 had with Mr. O'Tuel or anyone from Mr. O'Tuel's  
2 firm?  
3 A. Not with specificity.  
4 Q. Do you know if it was a meeting in  
5 person or on the telephone or something else?  
6 Over the computer?  
7 A. It was not over the computer.  
8 Q. Okay. Do you recall him coming to  
9 you in person?  
10 A. It may have been while we were  
11 together or it may have been on the phone.  
12 Q. When were you together?  
13 A. I'm sorry?  
14 Q. Let me back up.  
15 Prior to your involvement in the  
16 Blankenship matter, had you been retained by Mr.  
17 O'Tuel's firm in the past to provide expert  
18 services/testimony in tobacco-related litigation?  
19 A. Yes.  
20 Q. How long ago was that?  
21 Or when was the first time you

22 provided services to Mr. O'Tuel's firm in  
23 tobacco-related litigation?  
24 A. I won't be able to tell you that  
25 specifically, but order of magnitude to the best  
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23

1 of my memory at this moment, let's say a couple of  
2 years.  
3 Q. Okay. Fair enough.  
4 Have you issued bills to Mr. O'Tuel's  
5 firm for any of the work you've done in any  
6 tobacco-related litigation?  
7 A. Yes.  
8 Q. Do you maintain those files on your  
9 computer?  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. Do you maintain hard copies of those  
12 invoices?  
13 A. I think once they're paid, I discard  
14 most of them. I have very -- not very regular  
15 files for my night job.  
16 Q. The fees that you generate and make  
17 from the tobacco-related litigation, do those go  
18 to a personal business that you have, or do they  
19 go to the University? What happens with those  
20 fees?  
21 A. The University permits us to do this  
22 sort of consultation, and we are permitted to  
23 retain the fees that we charge.  
24 Q. Since you have been consulting with  
25 Mr. O'Tuel's firm, do you know if Mr. O'Tuel's  
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24

1 firm has always been representing RJR?  
2 A. I don't know the answer to that.  
3 Q. Did you know as it relates to your  
4 work in the Blankenship case that Mr. O'Tuel's  
5 firm was representing RJR?  
6 A. I knew that they were representing a  
7 firm in the tobacco industry, but -- they may have  
8 told me, but I did not take notice of the specific  
9 firm.  
10 Q. Do you delineate on your income tax  
11 return the fees that you generate from your  
12 tobacco litigation expertise or the work you do in  
13 the tobacco litigation?  
14 A. Delineate from or how?  
15 Q. Do you include it on your personal  
16 income taxes?  
17 A. Well, I include on my personal income  
18 taxes all my income, you bet.  
19 Q. All right. Does Mr. O'Tuel's firm  
20 send you some kind of form so you can report  
21 accurately the amount of money you've made?  
22 A. I can't answer that specifically, but  
23 that might well be.  
24 Q. Can you give me an estimate of the  
25 total amount of fees you've generated as a result  
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25

1 of your work in the tobacco litigation?  
2 A. Not as I sit here.  
3 Q. How much do you charge an hour,

4 Doctor?  
5 A. \$550.  
6 Q. Is that for generation of the expert  
7 report?  
8 A. It's for everything.  
9 Q. Everything. Review of these  
10 materials?  
11 A. That's what the word means,  
12 everything.  
13 Q. I just want to make sure.  
14 Can you give me an estimate of how  
15 many hours you've put into this case here today?  
16 A. It would be an estimate.  
17 Q. That's fine.  
18 A. Let's say 10, 11.  
19 Q. Would it be fair to say, Dr.  
20 Schaffner, that over the last two years in the  
21 tobacco-related litigation that you have made over  
22 \$100,000 in expert witness fees?  
23 A. Heck no.  
24 Q. No? Would it be more than \$50,000?  
25 A. No.  
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26

1 Q. Do you have a figure in mind?  
2 A. No. But it's a lot less than  
3 \$50,000. A lot less.  
4 Q. All right. How do you keep your  
5 hours for your work in this matter?  
6 A. I just jot them down.  
7 Q. And who generates the invoice?  
8 A. My secretary/administrative  
9 assistant.  
10 Q. And how have you demarked the  
11 Blankenship file, if you will?  
12 Do you have a file name or number?  
13 A. What do you mean by demarked?  
14 Q. Well, just how you keep track of it,  
15 like when you are writing down your hours as they  
16 relate to the Blankenship work, do you write down  
17 Blankenship, or have you assigned a file number,  
18 whatever that file number or name may be for your  
19 work in this matter?  
20 A. I believe it's -- I may have just  
21 called it Medical Monitoring.  
22 Q. Okay. That's fair enough.  
23 A. I don't know whether it's fair, but  
24 it's accurate, or to the best of my ability.  
25 Q. Do you know in how many other cases  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

27

1 you have provided expert services to Mr. O'Tuel's  
2 firm?  
3 A. I believe two.  
4 Q. Do you recall the names of those  
5 actions?  
6 A. Well, I remember that the plaintiff  
7 for both had the same name, and the name is Neri,  
8 N-e-r-i, and that was also an infectious  
9 disease-related issue.  
10 Q. Other than Mr. O'Tuel's firm, have  
11 you been retained by other law firms to provide  
12 expert services in tobacco-related litigation?

13 A. I have not.  
14 Q. Did you give testimony, deposition  
15 and/or trial testimony in the Neri case?  
16 A. I think not.  
17 Q. Okay. Do you know if you issued an  
18 expert witness disclosure in that action?  
19 A. I couldn't tell you as I sit here.  
20 Q. If you did, would you have those  
21 files on your computer in your office?  
22 A. You credit me with more computer  
23 expertise than I have. I don't know whether they  
24 have been retained there in the office or not, and  
25 I don't even know if they are there.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

28

1 Q. Okay. How about the expert witness  
2 disclosure in this action? Did you or someone on  
3 your staff type this up for you?  
4 A. I don't think so.  
5 Q. Did you write it out, send it to  
6 someone, ask them to type it up for you and review  
7 it?  
8 A. Well, variants of that are often the  
9 case when I do this. I think, I think this one  
10 resulted from a discussion between me and Mr.  
11 O'Tuel.  
12 Q. Okay. Would that have been in  
13 person, on the phone, over the computer, or do you  
14 not recall?  
15 A. I best say I don't recall. I think  
16 it was on the phone, but I wouldn't want to be  
17 held to that.  
18 Q. Okay. If --  
19 A. That may not be right. I can't tell  
20 you.  
21 Q. Would you have made an entry on a  
22 slip of paper, half-hour discussion with Mr.  
23 O'Tuel, witness disclosure form or something  
24 similar to that?  
25 A. It would have been less -- it could

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

29

1 have been that specific or it might just have been  
2 consultation with Mr. O'Tuel.  
3 Q. Do you know if you've ever made an  
4 entry for purposes of billing Mr. O'Tuel's firm  
5 for drafting your expert witness disclosure form?  
6 A. Excuse me. Tell me the question  
7 again. Have I --  
8 Q. Ever made an entry for purposes of  
9 billing Mr. O'Tuel's firm for your services in  
10 this action for drafting an expert witness  
11 disclosure?  
12 A. I don't know if it's noted that  
13 specifically, but I suspect I have made an entry.  
14 Q. Do you know how much time you put in  
15 drafting this expert witness disclosure?  
16 A. I don't recall that at the moment. I  
17 mean, we had substantial discussion before that,  
18 and it may not have been even on that exact  
19 moment, you know, I have had several contacts with  
20 Mr. O'Tuel and Miss Crooks about this.  
21 Q. I'm sorry. The other person you

22 mentioned was a Miss --  
23 A. Susan Crooks.  
24 Q. Is she also an attorney with Mr.  
25 O'Tuel?  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES 30

1 A. Indeed.  
2 Q. Since you've been retained in this  
3 matter, can you identify for me at least the  
4 number of phone conversations or face-to-face  
5 meetings you have had with representatives from  
6 Mr. O'Tuel's firm discussing your testimony in the  
7 Blankenship case?  
8 A. Not off the top of my head, but I  
9 could get that for you.  
10 Q. And where would you get that  
11 information?  
12 A. From my office, I think, or it's  
13 either there or at home.  
14 Q. Okay. We won't make you do that  
15 right now. It may be something we request later  
16 on.  
17 The information though from where you  
18 would get that though, would that be in your  
19 billing notes or the entries that you make and how  
20 much time you spend on the case?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Isn't it true that Mr. O'Tuel or  
23 someone at Mr. O'Tuel's firm drafted this Expert  
24 Witness Disclosure and sent it to you and asked  
25 you if you would approve it?  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES 31

1 A. That was the culmination of the  
2 process, yes.  
3 Q. Did you see any drafts of this  
4 document that you marked up, had questions about  
5 or revisions to?  
6 A. They blur together. I can't remember  
7 specifically.  
8 Q. Can you in looking at the expert  
9 report, can you tell me certain areas in which you  
10 may have made changes to or sentences that you  
11 said, we need to change this?  
12 A. I could not be that specific today.  
13 Q. Okay. Is it your recollection that  
14 there were, in fact, prior drafts to this report  
15 for which you made changes?  
16 A. Is that my recollection, is that your  
17 question?  
18 Q. Yes.  
19 A. That's not my recollection. My  
20 recollection is not sufficiently specific as to  
21 the generation of this specific document.  
22 Q. So it may have been that this was the  
23 first draft, you looked at it, said it's fine,  
24 I'll go with it?  
25 A. That's possible.  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES 32

1 Q. But this was not generated off of  
2 your computer, was it?  
3 A. No. It was not.

4 Q. This came from counsel for RJR, did  
5 it not?  
6 A. Yes.  
7 Q. And the footer on the bottom there,  
8 the Raleigh footer, do you know what any of that  
9 means?  
10 A. I suspect -- this is sworn testimony,  
11 and we're hard up against my knowledge of  
12 computers, but I think that that will let someone  
13 whose computer it is get to that document.  
14 Q. But that's not on your computer?  
15 A. No. It's not.  
16 Q. And you really don't know what that  
17 number means except that it's something that Mr.  
18 O'Tuel's firm put on the bottom of your expert  
19 report, isn't it?  
20 A. I dare say.  
21 MR. JEKEL: I want to mark this as an  
22 exhibit, but I don't know if you want me to mark  
23 his copy from his file or if we want to make  
24 copies of it after the deposition is done. Do you  
25 gentlemen have a preference? Does Dr. Schaffner  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

33

1 have a preference?  
2 MR. LATHAM: Up to you.  
3 THE WITNESS: Doesn't make any  
4 difference. I'd like to just retain a copy of  
5 that. It doesn't have to be those two pieces of  
6 paper.  
7 MR. JEKEL: Let's go ahead and mark  
8 Dr. Schaffner's report as Schaffner Exhibit 1.  
9 (Whereupon, the above-mentioned  
10 report document was marked Exhibit No. 1.)  
11 BY MR. JEKEL:  
12 Q. Before we go over your report, Dr.  
13 Schaffner, I'd like to ask you if at any time  
14 consulting with Mr. O'Tuel's firm, did you ever  
15 ask them why they came to you or how they got your  
16 name or why they sought you out as an expert in  
17 this area?  
18 A. My memory of that is that they were  
19 working with a colleague, and he referred them to  
20 me.  
21 Q. Do you know who that colleague would  
22 be?  
23 A. And if you give me a little time,  
24 I'll try to think of his name.  
25 Q. Certainly.  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

34

1 A. Which won't be momentarily. I have a  
2 name problem. He's no longer with the University.  
3 Q. Do you know what his expertise was or  
4 was he with preventive medicine or --  
5 A. He -- his area of expertise is  
6 pulmonary medicine.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 And did you know why your colleague,  
9 your former colleague here at the medical center  
10 gave them your name? Did he have a specific  
11 reason why he recommended you, Dr. Schaffner, to  
12 talk with Mr. O'Tuel's firm?

13 A. My memory is a bit dim on that, but I  
14 think it was because they had an infectious  
15 disease question in mind.

16 Q. Other than the work that you have  
17 done for Mr. O'Tuel's firm in the tobacco  
18 litigation, have you provided expert testimony in  
19 nontobacco litigation?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. On how many occasions have you been  
22 retained to provide expert testimony in  
23 nontobacco-related litigation?

24 A. I couldn't give you a number. It's  
25 -- I'd call it kind of my night job.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

35

1 Q. How long have you held this night  
2 job, if you will?

3 A. I must have begun, oh, 15 years ago,  
4 or thereabouts.

5 Q. Do you maintain a list anywhere of  
6 the actions for which you've provided expert  
7 testimony in the past?

8 A. I've tried to provide a list for  
9 those at your request, I think, of those instances  
10 in which I have either been deposed or given  
11 testimony. I've already told you about the  
12 somewhat casual nighttime filing system. The  
13 finances are reported rigorously to the Internal  
14 Revenue Service, but then the rest of that  
15 material, I don't need to keep, so this is the  
16 list that actually, I think I provided first to  
17 Mr. O'Tuel, and he's -- I must have had part of it  
18 handwritten or something, he's reformatted it, so  
19 it looks better than the list I gave him. And  
20 that's back since -- I don't know how far back it  
21 goes.

22 Q. I don't know either.

23 A. '92, if memory serves.

24 Q. Okay. We'll go ahead and mark what's  
25 entitled William Schaffner, MD testimony, it's a

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

36

1 3-page document with 34 entries on it, as  
2 Schaffner Exhibit 2.

3 (Whereupon, the above-mentioned  
4 document was marked Exhibit No. 2.)  
5 BY MR. JEKEL:

6 Q. I'm going to hand you Exhibit No. 2,  
7 and if you can, Dr. Schaffner, can you tell me by  
8 number if your testimony involved any questions  
9 concerning cancer, be it lung cancer or some other  
10 cancer?

11 A. I don't believe cancer was ever  
12 involved in these cases.

13 Q. Okay. In the Neri cases -- by the  
14 way, is Neri listed on there?

15 A. Neri is not on here, so I guess I  
16 haven't provided deposition testimony in that case  
17 or my files didn't show it.

18 Q. Do you gentlemen know whether he did  
19 give a deposition in those actions, Neri?

20 MR. LATHAM: I have no idea

21 MR. JEKEL: You don't know, Mr.



22 O'Tuel?  
23 MR. O'TUEL: He did not.  
24 BY MR. JEKEL:  
25 Q. But it's your recollection none of  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES  
37  
1 these actions involved a question of lung cancer?  
2 A. I don't believe lung cancer, and to  
3 my best memory, cancer of any kind played a role  
4 in any of these cases. I'm an infectious diseases  
5 doctor. These involve by and large issues of  
6 infection.  
7 Q. Can you identify just by number those  
8 cases that may have involved infectious diseases  
9 of the respiratory system?  
10 A. This stretches my memory. I can't  
11 recall the subject of each and every one of these.  
12 Q. Okay.  
13 A. But I don't believe that a  
14 respiratory infection was the principle issue in  
15 any of these cases, to the best of my memory.  
16 Q. Any tuberculosis that you recall?  
17 A. Tuberculosis was part of the issue in  
18 No. 9, and that's the only one that I can recall  
19 that tuberculosis played a role in it.  
20 Q. Of the 34 items that are on Exhibit  
21 No. 2, do you know percentagewise on how many of  
22 those items you were retained by a defendant  
23 versus a plaintiff?  
24 A. I'd say plaintiff about 10 to 15  
25 percent of these.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

38

1 Q. Do you maintain copies of any of the  
2 deposition and/or trial testimony that you've  
3 given at your office?  
4 A. No. When things are finished, I  
5 discard those things, as I said.  
6 Q. Do you know which of these actions  
7 you may have provided trial testimony in as  
8 opposed to deposition?  
9 A. That will be hard. Let's think. No.  
10 2 went to trial. No. 6 went to trial. No. 9 went  
11 to an administrative hearing before a judge. I  
12 believe No. 16 went to trial. Well, maybe not. I  
13 can't remember. Oh, I don't know about 16. I  
14 think 24 went to trial. This is hard.  
15 Q. Just to the best of your  
16 recollection, Doctor.  
17 A. No. 25 went to trial where I was not  
18 an expert witness. I might remark I was a fact  
19 witness.  
20 Q. You were a treating doctor in that  
21 case or --  
22 A. Not exactly. It was a suit against  
23 Vanderbilt University about some events that had  
24 taken place, and I was party to the discussions  
25 that led to decisions that Vanderbilt did one

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

39

1 thing or another, and I had to testify to that.  
2 Q. Okay. Very good.  
3 A. That's about the best I can do.

4 Q. Thank you, sir.  
5 Again, I want to refer back -- well,  
6 we'll get to Exhibit No. 1 in just a minute. I  
7 have a copy of your CV dated June 17, 1998. This  
8 copy has some highlighting on it that I put on  
9 there, but since you don't have a copy, why don't  
10 we go ahead and mark this as Schaffner 3.  
11 (Whereupon, the above-mentioned  
12 document was marked Exhibit No. 3.)  
13 BY MR. JEKEL:  
14 Q. Take a minute to review what I have  
15 marked as Exhibit No. 3. I just want to make sure  
16 that it's up to date and if you have any new  
17 publications, texts, things of that matter that  
18 would be added on there, that we go over those.  
19 A. Well, this is dated June 17th, 1998,  
20 and I know there have been changes since then.  
21 Q. Maybe at a break you could get me a  
22 more up-to-date version, and we could just make it  
23 an exhibit to the deposition, would that be  
24 acceptable?  
25 MR. LATHAM: We've got an updated one  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

40

1 that we can provide.  
2 MR. JEKEL: Can I take a quick look  
3 at it?  
4 MR. LATHAM: Sure.  
5 MR. JEKEL: We've got one here marked  
6 June 12th, 2000. Just want to make sure I see all  
7 the new stuff.  
8 MR. LATHAM: Could we take a quick  
9 break while we look at this?  
10 MR. JEKEL: We'll go off the record  
11 for just a minute, gentlemen and ladies on the  
12 phone.  
13 (Discussion off the record)  
14 MR. JEKEL: We're going to substitute  
15 Exhibit No. 3, which was previously marked as the  
16 June, 1998 CV with the June 12th, 2000 CV. Has  
17 anybody got a problem with that?  
18 MR. LATHAM: Fine with me. I'll take  
19 the sticker, madam court reporter, and place it on  
20 the new one. Good enough?  
21 BY MR. JEKEL:  
22 Q. Dr. Schaffner, is the CV that we  
23 marked June, 2000 up to date?  
24 A. Yeah, reasonably.  
25 Q. Are there currently publications that  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

41

1 are not reflected in your CV which you are working  
2 on presently or submitted for publication?  
3 A. Actually, there may be a -- yeah, I  
4 think there is on page 27, there's probably one  
5 more after that, some publication and patient care  
6 having to do with influenza.  
7 Q. Okay.  
8 A. That's the only one I can recall.  
9 The only other thing that's a slight change here  
10 is that in front of the CV, in the Professional  
11 Societies on page 3, No. 4, Infectious Diseases  
12 Society of America, I've had a lot to do with that

13 organization, and I've just been elected a  
14 national counselor to that, you know, to the  
15 board.

16 Q. Very good.

17 A. Thank you.

18 Q. Are those the only changes that you  
19 think need to be made today to your CV?

20 A. I believe those are the only ones,  
21 yeah.

22 Q. Okay. Very good.

23 You are a medical doctor, Dr.  
24 Schaffner?

25 A. Yes, Mr. Jekel.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

42

1 Q. And you obtained your medical degree  
2 from Cornell?

3 A. Cornell University Medical College,  
4 yes.

5 Q. And you are board certified in  
6 internal medicine, infectious diseases, and  
7 preventive medicine?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I'd like to just break those down, if  
10 we could. Quite simply, give us a simple  
11 explanation of what is internal medicine.

12 A. Internal medicine is the -- relates  
13 to the understanding of diagnosis and care of  
14 patients who -- adults who have diseases that are  
15 not taken care of through surgery. That would be  
16 the easiest way to describe it.

17 Q. Would that include patients with  
18 coronary heart disease?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Would it include patients with other  
21 vascular-type diseases?

22 A. Yes. It could, to the point that  
23 they might need surgery, for example, but a  
24 patient with diabetes might have vascular disease  
25 that might fall under the regular care of an

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

43

1 internist.

2 Q. Hypertension?

3 A. Surely.

4 Q. Do you currently actually see  
5 patients on a day-to-day basis with regard to your  
6 practice in internal medicine?

7 A. I see patients on rotation as an  
8 infectious diseases consultant. Obviously, a lot  
9 of those patients are patients of other  
10 internists, and many are surgical patients, but I  
11 don't function as a general internist.

12 Q. Okay. When was the last time you  
13 actually practiced internal medicine?

14 A. Generally internal medicine, that  
15 would be through about the mid 1980s. Well, I  
16 think I can tell you more specifically because --

17 Q. It's in your CV?

18 A. Well, only by inference. Hold on a  
19 moment.

20 Until sometime in 1982 when I was  
21 asked to chair the Department of Preventive

22 Medicine, and at that point, because there's just  
23 so many hours in the day, I had to give up my  
24 practice of general internal medicine.

25 Q. So when you see patients on rotation  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

44

1 now, can you tell me what that includes? Will you  
2 prescribe treatment for those patients?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Will you prescribe testing for those  
5 patients?

6 A. Surely.

7 Q. Will you prescribe follow-up care for  
8 those patients?

9 A. Yes. And perhaps just not to be a  
10 stickler, but we might refine the word prescribe,  
11 since most of my practice is consultative  
12 practice, we offer suggestions to the primary care  
13 physicians in all of those areas, but they have  
14 the ultimate responsibility. When I admit  
15 patients myself, and I occasionally rotate on the  
16 admission, the infectious disease admitting  
17 service, then that would pertain.

18 Q. So is it fair to say that currently  
19 your internal medicine practice is limited to  
20 those types of patients you may see while you're  
21 on rotation?

22 A. Surely.

23 Yes.

24 Q. Now, you're board certified in  
25 infectious diseases. And, you know, that sounds

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

45

1 to me like it covers an awful lot of ground. Can  
2 you give me a short explanation of what your  
3 day-to-day practice in infectious diseases really  
4 entails?

5 A. Infectious diseases in this context  
6 is one of the subspecialties of internal medicine,  
7 and you get further training in that area, and my  
8 current practice in infectious diseases occurs  
9 when I have the responsibility for the infectious  
10 diseases consult and the infectious disease  
11 admitting service at the Vanderbilt University  
12 Hospital, and I do that in the context of having  
13 infectious disease fellows and residents and  
14 occasionally students with us, so it's both a  
15 service and a teaching service. It's quite  
16 typical of academic medical centers in that  
17 regard.

18 Q. But you actually admit and treat  
19 patients under your infectious disease practice  
20 here at the hospital?

21 A. Yes. The various subspecialties,  
22 cardiology, pulmonary medicine, kidney disease,  
23 all have admitting services at the Vanderbilt  
24 Hospital, so if the patient's illness falls into  
25 that category, principally, obviously, they can

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

46

1 have things and other illnesses simultaneously,  
2 but one of the physicians in the appropriate  
3 specialty would be their admitting doctor, and I

4 fill that role when it comes to infectious  
5 diseases when I'm on rotation.

6 Q. Now, you're also the Chairman of the  
7 Department of Preventive Medicine here at the  
8 University, and you are board certified in  
9 preventive medicine, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Tell us a little bit about what --  
12 what is the goal of preventive medicine?

13 A. Well, generically speaking, the name  
14 is self-evident. It teaches the discipline and  
15 does research in the discipline that tries to  
16 identify risk factors for disease, and it uses a  
17 variety of interventions to try and prevent  
18 disease. This can be expressed on an individual  
19 basis, an individual patient with their physician,  
20 or when extended to the community, it blends into  
21 public health.

22 Q. Right. So as preventive medicine  
23 relates to lung cancer, what would the goal be in  
24 that regard? Would it not be to get people to  
25 stop smoking?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

47

1 A. Actually, I guess the first goal  
2 might be to prevent people from starting smoking,  
3 and then to stop smoking, and since there are  
4 other things that are predisposing factors to lung  
5 cancer, you would try to make sure that, for  
6 example, they, if they work in the asbestos  
7 industry, that the occupational standards that  
8 they have for precautions there are fulfilled and  
9 the like.

10 Q. Doctor, do you have an opinion in the  
11 absence of cigarette smoking why their exposure to  
12 asbestos can cause lung cancer?

13 A. I don't.

14 Q. How much of your work as the Chairman  
15 of the Department of Preventive Medicine here at  
16 Vanderbilt is spent trying to get kids and adults  
17 to stop smoking or not begin smoking?

18 A. Basically, none, because that  
19 activity in our medical center, it's my  
20 understanding is being led by some of the  
21 oncologists.

22 Q. And those would be people at the  
23 Ingram Cancer Center?

24 A. I'm sure they're affiliated with the  
25 Ingram Cancer Center, yes.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

48

1 Q. Because you don't actually treat  
2 patients with lung cancer here at Vanderbilt, do  
3 you?

4 A. At the Vanderbilt University  
5 Hospital?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Oh, certainly.

8 Q. Do you treat them for their lung  
9 cancer or do you treat them for other problems  
10 they may have?

11 A. I beg your pardon? I may have  
12 misunderstood your question. By you, you meant me

13 personally?  
14 Q. You, Dr. Schaffner, personally.  
15 A. Rather than in the southern parlance,  
16 y'all?  
17 Q. Y'all, that's right.  
18 A. I do not treat, so let me clarify.  
19 Q. Thank you.  
20 A. I do not specifically admit patients  
21 with lung cancer for reasons of their lung cancer,  
22 and I do not consult on them regarding their  
23 therapy. If patients with lung cancer sometime  
24 during the course of their illness develop or are  
25 considered to possibly have an infectious

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

49

1 complication, that might be my role in their care.  
2 Q. Okay. So is it also true then,  
3 you've not done any research or published any  
4 articles as it relates to health and smoking?  
5 A. One might be considered within that  
6 category broadly construed. When I was still a  
7 very junior faculty member in my figurative short  
8 pants, I had a relationship with a chemist here at  
9 Vanderbilt, and we did a series of studies on  
10 whether certain materials could be detected in the  
11 breast milk of nursing mothers. One of those  
12 studies, in his laboratory he determined nicotine  
13 concentrations, but that's, I think, as close as I  
14 can come to the arena that you've described.  
15 Q. Would you be able to identify that  
16 article on your CV?  
17 A. This will take a moment.  
18 Q. I understand. I know it's a long  
19 list.  
20 A. It would be No. 45 on page 14.  
21 Q. Thank you. Do you know if that was a  
22 peer review journal?  
23 A. You bet.  
24 Q. I'm sorry?  
25 A. You bet.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

50

1 Q. Do you -- I don't recall, I looked  
2 through it a while back, but do you have journals  
3 for which you are on the board to review articles?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 I don't know if I've listed them on  
6 the CV. I can't remember that.  
7 Q. I thought I saw something, but it may  
8 have been somebody else. Can you just identify  
9 the journals for which you perform that function?  
10 A. Well, you know, you perform some on a  
11 more or less regular basis and then some are  
12 pretty rare, but I would include among them the  
13 New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, J-A-M-A,  
14 the Annals of Internal Medicine, Journal of  
15 Infectious Diseases, Clinical Infectious Diseases,  
16 Infection Control in Hospital Epidemiology, the  
17 American Journal of Epidemiology, European Journal  
18 of Clinical Microbiology, and Infectious Diseases,  
19 journal called Infection, American Journal of  
20 Tropical Medicine Hygiene, and then others from  
21 Pediatric Infectious Diseases Journal and others

22 that you get asked to review manuscripts from time  
23 to time.

24 Q. Just for the benefit of those folks  
25 participating by the telephone, article No. 5 on

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

51

1 Dr. Schaffner's CV is entitled "Determination of  
2 Nicotine Concentrations in Human Milk" from the  
3 American Journal of --

4 A. Diseases of Children.

5 Q. Diseases of Children, 1976 with a  
6 Ferguson.

7 Do you recall whether that article  
8 determined that the source of the nicotine in a  
9 mother's breast milk was from cigarette smoking?

10 A. It's been a long time, but I believe  
11 we had some nonsmoking mothers, some who smoked a  
12 little, and some who smoked more, and I believe  
13 they're along that gradient, there was more  
14 nicotine discovered in the breast milk, I believe.  
15 That's a crude summary of the results.

16 Q. All right.

17 A. But I haven't looked at that article  
18 in ages.

19 Q. Okay. I won't ask you any more about  
20 it.

21 In your position here at Vanderbilt,  
22 do you teach medical students?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Currently what courses are you  
25 teaching or classes or lectures are you giving?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

52

1 A. It's, you know, medical school  
2 teaching doesn't always happen in the structure of  
3 a course, but there is a required course in  
4 preventive medicine for which I have titular  
5 responsibility, and with a course director we  
6 design that course. I give talks in that course  
7 having to do basically with infectious diseases.  
8 I talk to the students in other courses and on  
9 other occasions about other aspects of infectious  
10 disease often having to do with infection control,  
11 preventing transmission of infections from patient  
12 to patient, and from indeed patients to  
13 themselves, and then when we see patients, when I  
14 perform my clinical service responsibilities, we  
15 often have medical students with us at that time  
16 and provide them an introduction to clinical  
17 infectious diseases practice, but that's not in a  
18 structured classroom environment. That's clinical  
19 as it's commonly known, bedside teaching.

20 Q. Right. How much of your time do you  
21 spend on the clinical aspects as opposed to more  
22 the scholarly aspects?

23 A. Of my total professional life?

24 Q. Of your total professional life.

25 A. As you may have been able to discern,  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

53

1 we sometimes do two things at the same time.  
2 You're teaching -- you're taking care of a  
3 patient, but you're also teaching at the bedside,

4 so it's hard to parse those things.  
5 Q. I would consider that clinical though  
6 for purposes of my question.  
7 A. So you're mostly interested in the  
8 stand-up lecture room seminar teaching format for  
9 this purpose?  
10 Q. Research and writing as opposed to  
11 being with a patient at a bedside on rounds, et  
12 cetera.  
13 A. In addition to that, I have  
14 administrative duties as Chairman of the  
15 Department, and so which piece were you just --  
16 Q. I'm more interested to determine how  
17 much time you actually spend with patients, either  
18 be it bedside teaching, on rounds, et cetera.  
19 A. Yeah, okay. Well, I'm on service  
20 three or four rotations a year. Each of the  
21 rotations is about 3 weeks, and during that period  
22 I'd say 70 to 80 percent of my day is devoted to  
23 taking care of patients.  
24 Q. In the last year, can you tell me how  
25 many patients that you've seen or treated that had

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54

1 lung cancer, even though you weren't treating them  
2 for lung cancer?  
3 A. I don't think I can tell you that.  
4 Q. Was it more than one?  
5 Was there at least one?  
6 A. I'm loath to say there were none. It  
7 was not a huge number, not a large number.  
8 Q. But it was at least one?  
9 A. I can't remember.  
10 Q. How many patients in the last year do  
11 you think you've seen or treated that had coronary  
12 heart disease?  
13 A. Well, we have a very sick population  
14 at Vanderbilt, so some of them have underlying  
15 diseases, and many of them would have had some  
16 degree of underlying coronary heart disease or  
17 and/or hypertension.  
18 Q. Are those patients rather that you  
19 actually treat?  
20 A. If you mean are those patients for  
21 whom I have primary responsibility as a physician,  
22 the answer would be no. Again, I would be seeing  
23 those patients principally in consultation. Now,  
24 on occasion, a patient with coronary artery  
25 disease and an infection will be admitted to the

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55

1 hospital, and if I am the admitting doctor, I  
2 would have principal responsibility for them, but  
3 it would be -- the modus operandi of that would  
4 be because they have infection.  
5 Q. Can you tell me of the patients  
6 within the last year at Vanderbilt that you have  
7 seen that had underlying coronary heart disease,  
8 do you have any estimation as to how many of those  
9 patients were smokers or smoked within the last  
10 five years?  
11 A. I would have no answer for that  
12 beyond saying some.



13 Q. When you were practicing internal  
14 medicine, if a patient presented and had some  
15 coronary heart disease, is one of the things you  
16 would ask them is, do you smoke?  
17 A. Obtaining a smoking history would be  
18 part of the routine history of every patient.  
19 Q. Okay. Even an infectious disease  
20 patient?  
21 A. You asked me that question, the  
22 former question in the context of my general  
23 internal medicine practice, and --  
24 Q. Assuming, yeah.  
25 A. And so the answer was, it's part of  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

56

1 the routine medical history of every patient you  
2 see in general medical practice. Smoking history  
3 becomes more or less relevant in infectious  
4 diseases depending upon first the underlying  
5 circumstances that bring the patient to the  
6 hospital, and then whether or not the patient's  
7 illness involves the respiratory tract or some  
8 other aspect, so it might or might not be germane.  
9 Q. Now, Dr. Schaffner, you're not a  
10 cardiologist, are you?  
11 A. I'm not a cardiologist.  
12 Q. And you're not a pulmonologist, are  
13 you?  
14 A. Neither.  
15 Q. And you're not an oncologist?  
16 A. Correct.  
17 Q. Do you consider yourself an  
18 epidemiologist?  
19 A. Yes, small e.  
20 Q. Small e. And in what aspects or --  
21 what's your practice as it relates to  
22 epidemiology?  
23 A. I'm a long-term consultant to -- let  
24 me back up.  
25 I spent part of my training at the  
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57

1 Centers for Disease Control fulfilling my  
2 Selective Service obligation and was introduced to  
3 the principles of epidemiology and epidemiologic  
4 field practice, investigating outbreaks of  
5 disease. I have been, when I returned to  
6 Vanderbilt, I became a consultant to the Tennessee  
7 Department of Health, our state health department,  
8 and I have remained a very, very active consultant  
9 with them for the subsequent, I guess, must be  
10 close on to 30 years. In that context, I have  
11 been very involved in communicable disease control  
12 activities which often have involved investigating  
13 outbreaks of disease, and that's where we apply  
14 epidemiologic principles.  
15 The other arena in which I function  
16 as a small e epidemiologist is for that same  
17 period of time, since I have returned to  
18 Vanderbilt, I have been the director of the  
19 medical center's Infection Control Program, which  
20 is also called Hospital Epidemiology where we try  
21 to keep the infectious risks to patients,

22 visitors, and personnel as low as possible.

23 Q. Dr. Schaffner, would you agree with  
24 me that as it relates to questions of screening,  
25 diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer, that

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58

1 those issues are better left to experts in  
2 cardiology, pulmonology, and oncology?

3 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
4 the question.

5 THE WITNESS: I think all of those  
6 disciplines can make contributions to those areas.  
7 But I don't know that we want to -- one would  
8 "leave" them to just those and in particular the  
9 issue of screening, which although it can involve  
10 all those arenas, rests on epidemiologic  
11 principles.

12 BY MR. JEKEL:

13 Q. Let's just talk about treatment of  
14 lung cancer. Do you think you, as an expert in  
15 internal medicine, infectious diseases, and  
16 preventive medicines, have more expertise as a  
17 cardiologist, pulmonologist, or oncologist in how  
18 to treat a lung cancer?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Other than the article on nicotine  
21 that you pointed out, have you been involved in  
22 any other research or publication of an article or  
23 book that dealt with cigarette smoking and/or lung  
24 cancer?

25 A. No. I don't think so.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

59

1 Q. During your work for Mr. O'Tuel's  
2 firm, have you ever asked to review any internal  
3 documents from RJR or any other tobacco company to  
4 see their research on the effects of cigarette  
5 smoking and/or nicotine?

6 A. I have not.

7 My expertise hasn't related to that.  
8 The questions they've asked me haven't gone to  
9 those questions.

10 Q. Have you ever designed a Medical  
11 Monitoring Program of any sort?

12 A. Could you help me by defining medical  
13 monitoring a little bit for me?

14 Q. Well, let's -- a screening program  
15 for a certain disease over a long period of time  
16 covering a large population first.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Okay. As it relates to screening,  
19 what types of diseases or illnesses have you been  
20 involved in putting into place a long-term  
21 screening program?

22 A. They're all infectious diseases.

23 Q. Did you do any of that work for the  
24 CDC?

25 A. I don't believe while I was an active

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60

1 duty public health service officer at the CDC I  
2 can recall putting into place a screening program  
3 in the course of my two years there.

4 Q. When you are designing, can you tell  
5 me at least how many of these screening programs  
6 you've designed over the course of your  
7 professional background or history?

8 A. Most of them have occurred in the  
9 context of first my work as the hospital  
10 epidemiologist, the director of the Infection  
11 Control Program, and let me give you a quick  
12 example. From time to time we have an infection  
13 problem within the institution, perhaps with a  
14 bacteria that is resistant to multiple antibiotic  
15 agents, for example, in an intensive care unit.  
16 In addition to investigating the reasons for that,  
17 we might think it's important enough to identify  
18 all individuals, all patients who are infected,  
19 even though they may not yet be "a case," they may  
20 not manifest symptoms, so we would conduct a  
21 screening program using bacterial cultures of all  
22 the patients in the intensive care unit, and we  
23 might run that for a period of time for all new  
24 admissions or we might periodically screen  
25 everyone who's in the unit, let's say once a week,

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61

1 for example. And so many of them have been in  
2 that context.

3 We might indeed screen some medical  
4 personnel also to see if they were carriers of the  
5 organism that we were interested in, and then  
6 analogously from time to time in my work with the  
7 Tennessee Department of Health, we conducted  
8 similar screening programs, usually related to an  
9 acute communicable disease outbreak.

10 Q. I hate to make it too simple, but is  
11 there a checklist or a list of items that you,  
12 when you are developing a screening program, that  
13 you will go down and try and define or put limits  
14 on before you implement a screening program, for  
15 example, how many people are we going to screen?  
16 Are we just going to screen people in ICU, or do  
17 we need to screen people outside? I'm just trying  
18 to get the process by which you develop and  
19 implement the screen.

20 A. Yeah, you would always do something  
21 like that.

22 Q. Can you walk me through the steps  
23 that you, Dr. Schaffner, may take in developing  
24 and implementing a screening program?

25 A. Well, very quickly, and I wouldn't

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62

1 want to be limited to this in an absolute way,  
2 because it's off the top of my head, but you would  
3 have to have the problem reasonably well defined.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. You would like to identify the  
6 population at risk, which is the target for the  
7 screening program. You would like to have a  
8 modality that you were going to use to screen,  
9 what's the screening mechanism that you're going  
10 to use.

11 Q. Would that be like a bacteria  
12 culture?

13 A. Such as a bacterial culture.  
14 Q. All right. I'm sorry.  
15 A. You would figure out exactly, for  
16 example, to follow that example along, which  
17 anatomic sites you would screen.  
18 Q. All right.  
19 A. You would make sure that the method  
20 you're using is sufficiently sensitive and  
21 specific to do the task. You would like to have  
22 some idea of how long this screening program is  
23 going to go on. You would wish to make sure that  
24 in this instance the laboratory is ready to  
25 process the specimens in an efficient, timely, and

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63

1 accurate fashion. There would be issues of cost.  
2 You would have to be clear in your own mind what  
3 to do with those tests that are found to be  
4 positive as well as those that are found to be  
5 negative, and you would have to be sure that you  
6 had some goals that resulted in a net benefit from  
7 doing the process.  
8 Q. Let's just take a look at that last  
9 one, the goals, the net benefit. What do you look  
10 at in terms of that? Can we help the people with  
11 the disease? Is that what the net benefit is?  
12 A. Well, if we're pursuing my little  
13 example, it might be to prevent transmission of  
14 this bug to others, and so if you determine that  
15 someone had a positive culture, you could  
16 institute the appropriate isolation procedures, or  
17 you might move all the positive people to one area  
18 of the intensive care unit, patient placement,  
19 that's called, you could institute education so  
20 that the nurses and others who care for that  
21 patient, the physicians are made aware of the fact  
22 that that person is positive and they take not  
23 only their routine, we hope rigorous aseptic  
24 practices, but they are even more aware of their  
25 importance, so each instance has a different set

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64

1 of goals, but you have to have them clearly in  
2 mind when you begin.  
3 Q. As it relates to lung cancer, do you  
4 think that extending someone's life expectancy  
5 with lung cancer, be it a year, two years, six  
6 months, would be a net benefit to that individual?  
7 A. I think that that's likely a net  
8 benefit if you could be sure that the process  
9 would do that, certainly.  
10 Q. Is there a minimum limit as it  
11 relates to extending an individual with lung  
12 cancer's life that you would require like it  
13 wouldn't be a benefit unless we get them three  
14 more months or a year or something like that, or  
15 is one day sufficient?  
16 A. Well, those are always tough  
17 questions and are the things that you consider at  
18 the time. I don't think that there is a rule out  
19 there that you can grasp on.  
20 Q. But in general, extending one  
21 person's life would be a net benefit to that

22 person?  
23 A. No, I wouldn't say that as a general  
24 rule. You haven't put any time limits on it, and  
25 you haven't said anything about the quality of  
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65

1 life. We have people in the intensive care unit  
2 who are mortally ill, and I think, for example,  
3 and in discussions with their families, physicians  
4 now in agreement with everybody discontinue  
5 intensive therapies because even though one can  
6 prolong life, the life is devoid of meaning and  
7 indeed might cause anguish for survivors.

8 Q. So a real limitation you put on  
9 extending a person's life as part of that quotient  
10 would be the length of extending the person's life  
11 and then the quality of that person's life during  
12 the time it's extended?

13 A. Indeed, those would be important  
14 considerations. It might not be the only  
15 considerations, but they're certainly very  
16 important ones.

17 Q. Is there a text or a publication that  
18 you believe provides a fairly good discussion on  
19 screening programs, as you've discussed,  
20 implementation and design of a screening program?

21 A. I think there are numerous  
22 monographs, books, texts, and I'm sure some  
23 journal articles on the principles of screening  
24 today. They're in most of the clinical  
25 epidemiology texts and the general epidemiology

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66

1 textbooks.

2 Q. Is there any one that comes to your  
3 mind as being authoritative or the one that if you  
4 went into the library now would be the first one  
5 you went for?

6 A. No. The first one I went for might  
7 be the first one on the shelf, so -- I don't think  
8 there is a single authoritative text.

9 Q. And I just want -- a lot of this, Dr.  
10 Schaffner, is just to make sure exactly what we  
11 can expect from you at trial some day, but any  
12 clinical epidemiological texts or a similar book  
13 that discussed screening programs would be  
14 sufficient. I just want to make sure you don't  
15 come at trial with a book on clinical epidemiology  
16 that discusses all of these screening program  
17 requirements that you didn't disclose to me today.

18 A. That's a --

19 Q. Do you know, is there such a book in  
20 your mind?

21 A. There is no single book in my mind.  
22 I have not identified one for you here today.

23 Q. Okay. Or for Mr. O'Tuel?

24 A. Oh, not for Mr. O'Tuel either.

25 Q. Very well. Then I feel comfortable.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

67

1 Have you done any work for the United  
2 States Surgeon General on any disease topic?

3 A. Mr. Jekel, when I was a commissioned

4 officer in the United States Public Health  
5 Service, we were sent in the field on the orders  
6 of the Surgeon General. That's the way it was  
7 stated. But I don't think you mean that.  
8 Q. How rude of me. Outside of your  
9 experience as a public health --  
10 A. -- commissioned officer in the  
11 Public Health Service.  
12 Q. Commissioned officer in the Public  
13 Health Service, have you done any research or  
14 worked with the Surgeon General's office?  
15 You got to remember I was an  
16 infantryman. We didn't know any of that.  
17 A. I have been a frequent consultant to  
18 the CDC, but I don't believe I can recall an  
19 instance where I have specifically been a  
20 consultant to the office of the Surgeon General.  
21 Q. Okay. And when was the last time you  
22 were a consultant to the CDC or on what issue,  
23 topic, disease, if you will?  
24 A. Well, the last time was July, I  
25 think, and a group of us were asked to come back  
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68

1 and to help the CDC think about and plan the 50th  
2 anniversary activities of this program at the CDC,  
3 which is train epidemiologists. It's called the  
4 Epidemic Intelligence Service. That wasn't  
5 disease specific, and that was more fun than hard  
6 work.  
7 Q. Sounds like a good group.  
8 A. But we're recipients of contracts and  
9 grants from the CDC either directly or now even  
10 more frequently through and in collaboration with  
11 the State Health Department, and in that sense we  
12 are frequently gathered with colleagues at the CDC  
13 in planning conferences and the like. All of  
14 those things have to do with communicable  
15 diseases.  
16 Q. All right. Let's go over your report  
17 a little bit now. Let me get you a copy in front  
18 of you.  
19 Now, I don't see a signature page on  
20 this report. Did you sign any copy of the  
21 disclosure?  
22 Any version?  
23 A. Excuse me. I don't -- perhaps we're  
24 not quite on the same figurative page. I don't  
25 believe this is a report. I did not create a  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

69

1 report and submit.  
2 Q. It's -- you're right. Technically,  
3 it's an Expert Witness Disclosure. Did you sign  
4 the disclosure form, any version of the disclosure  
5 form?  
6 A. No. I was not asked to do that.  
7 Q. And is it fair to say that this is  
8 not a disclosure that you drafted sentence for  
9 sentence, word for word?  
10 A. Oh, for sure I have not done that. I  
11 recognize my language in here, but certainly the  
12 tone and stuff, because it's the product of

13 discussions with Mr. O'Tuel.  
14 Q. Now, subject matter of your expert  
15 testimony, I just want to take that first  
16 sentence. "Dr. Schaffner will be offered as an  
17 expert in the field of infectious disease and  
18 medicine." Can you give me any more definition on  
19 medicine? Is that the whole ball of wax medicine  
20 or a limited area there?  
21 Is that your word?  
22 A. Let's continue the sentence because I  
23 understand it perhaps a bit more in its entirety.  
24 Q. Okay.  
25 A. I'll be offered as an expert in the  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

70

1 fields of infectious diseases in medicine as they  
2 relate to the role of an infectious disease  
3 specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of  
4 infections of the respiratory system and  
5 infectious disease processes in general.  
6 Q. Okay.  
7 A. I'll stand on that.  
8 Q. How does that relate to diseases  
9 caused by cigarette smoking and lung cancer?  
10 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
11 the question. That's confusing. Can disease be  
12 caused by lung cancer?  
13 BY MR. JEKEL:  
14 Q. As it relates to a disease of the  
15 respiratory system and/or lung cancer.  
16 MR. LATHAM: Okay.  
17 THE WITNESS: Would you restate the  
18 question?  
19 BY MR. JEKEL:  
20 Q. Yeah. What does that statement have  
21 to do with the medical monitoring class action  
22 that the plaintiffs have brought here? What do  
23 infections of the respiratory system have to do  
24 with diseases that are caused by smoking and/or  
25 lung cancer?  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

71

1 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
2 the question. It calls for a legal conclusion.  
3 Subject to that, you can answer the question.  
4 BY MR. JEKEL:  
5 Q. Do you know what that means?  
6 A. I think I know what it means,  
7 because --  
8 Q. Did you write that sentence?  
9 A. Well, it goes on to the next  
10 sentence. No.  
11 Q. That one sentence?  
12 A. I didn't write that sentence, but I  
13 didn't object to it.  
14 Q. Can you tell me what your  
15 understanding of that first sentence is, what  
16 would that include as it relates to this case?  
17 A. Well, permit me to go on to the  
18 second sentence, which kind of, I think, extends  
19 the thought and perhaps makes it a bit more  
20 specific.  
21 He, I, will testify regarding

22 infectious diseases in West Virginia and their  
23 relationship to the plaintiffs' proposed Medical  
24 Monitoring Program.

25 Q. All right.

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72

1 Infectious disease and medicine as  
2 they relate to the role of an infectious disease  
3 specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of  
4 infections of the respiratory system and  
5 infectious disease process in general.

6 Let's stop right there. Is lung  
7 cancer an infection of the respiratory system?

8 A. I'm not familiar enough with the  
9 molecular biology of lung cancer to comment on the  
10 role of oncogenic viruses and generation of that  
11 disease, and viruses thought broadly are within  
12 the context of infectious diseases, but -- so if  
13 you will permit me to exclude that notion -- I've  
14 forgotten your question. Sorry.

15 Q. Is lung cancer, if you want to break  
16 it down by type of cell, type lung cancer, we can  
17 do that. In general, is lung cancer an infection  
18 of the respiratory system?

19 A. In general, lung cancers are not  
20 thought to be infectious diseases.

21 Q. Okay. So the development of lung  
22 cancer, the growth of tumors in the lung, that's  
23 not part of the infectious disease process in  
24 general, is it?

25 A. No. I think that that's a phrase

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73

1 that's a generic phrase that's in there such that  
2 if we get into the discussion of an infectious  
3 disease, I can talk about the infectious disease  
4 process.

5 Q. Okay. Do you understand that the  
6 plaintiff's Medical Monitoring Program has sought  
7 to test or screen for any type of infectious  
8 disease of the respiratory system?

9 A. Well, I'm not sure that I have a very  
10 clear idea of the actual structure and design of  
11 the Medical Monitoring Program. I'm given to  
12 understand in conversation with the attorneys here  
13 that that's kind of still a work in progress, if  
14 you will.

15 The issue is, isn't it, that whether  
16 infectious diseases can complicate the diagnosis,  
17 specific diagnosis of some of the diseases in  
18 question.

19 Q. Okay. And that's what you understand  
20 your real role in this litigation to be?

21 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
22 the question.

23 BY MR. JEKEL:

24 Q. To understand how the screening  
25 program or monitoring program that the plaintiffs

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74

1 have proposed may be complicated by the incidence  
2 of infectious disease in the class population; is  
3 that fair?



4           A.     That's pretty close, yes, I think  
5     that's pretty accurate.  
6           Q.     Last sentence in that first paragraph  
7     under Subject Matter of Expected Testimony. "Dr.  
8     Schaffner may also comment upon the" -- I'm  
9     sorry -- "the opinions expressed by other  
10    witnesses and/or additional evidence developed  
11    before and during the trial to the extent they  
12    relate to his area of expertise."  
13           I noted a couple of expert reports in  
14    the pile of materials you have in front of you,  
15    one being the report of David M. Burns, MD.  
16           Are you, as you sit here today,  
17    prepared to discuss the opinions of Dr. Burns?  
18           MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
19    the question. Very overbroad. There's many  
20    things in that document that don't relate to  
21    medical screening at all.  
22           MR. JEKEL: Yes. I'll limit it to  
23    the medical monitoring aspect of Dr. Burns'  
24    report.  
25           THE WITNESS: I'm happy to discuss  
            A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

75

1     aspects of that, not each and every aspect because  
2     there are areas outside of my expertise and areas  
3     where my area of expertise would not specifically  
4     interact with elements of the proposed monitoring  
5     program as recorded in this document.  
6     BY MR. JEKEL:  
7           Q.     All right. And we'll go through that  
8     in just a minute. Quite honestly, Dr. Schaffner,  
9     it will move things along considerably if you  
10    think something is outside of your area of  
11    expertise to just let me know and I will move on.  
12           A.     Thank you.  
13           Q.     All right. Are there, or can you  
14    identify for me, Doctor, diseases that in your  
15    opinion are causally related to smoking cigarettes  
16    that mirror or could be confused with infections  
17    of the respiratory system?  
18           MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
19    the question. It's compound. Subject to that,  
20    you can answer the question.  
21           THE WITNESS: Could you restate the  
22    question? I lost it in the exchange.  
23           MR. JEKEL: That's all right. Maybe  
24    she can read it for us again, or I can break it  
25    down. Let's do it the easy way.  
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76

1     BY MR. JEKEL:  
2           Q.     Dr. Schaffner, do you have an opinion  
3     that certain diseases are causally related to  
4     smoking cigarettes?  
5           A.     In a general way, yes.  
6           Q.     You are a medical doctor. In your  
7     capacity as a medical doctor, would you agree with  
8     me that cancer of the lip, mouth, and pharynx  
9     could be caused by cigarette smoking?  
10           A.     That's -- I'm not sure about those.  
11    I'm not sufficiently acquainted.  
12           Q.     All right. Well, let's, again, I'll

13 -- I'm referring to Dr. Burns' report, page 3,  
14 paragraph 7. And let's just -- of the diseases  
15 listed in paragraph 7 of Dr. Burns' report, are  
16 you in agreement on any of those items that you  
17 believe cigarette smoking causes the human disease  
18 identified?

19 A. I think cigarette smoking, if it's of  
20 sufficient dose and long enough can be generally,  
21 because this is not my area of expertise, can be  
22 generally thought of as being related to cancer of  
23 the lip and the oral cavity and certainly to the  
24 lung. I'm less aware of some of the other  
25 details, although I'm generally aware, as I read

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77

1 down the list, also its association with  
2 cardiovascular disease and what we might call  
3 chronic pulmonary disease. Bronchitis, emphysema,  
4 chronic airway obstruction, for example.

5 Q. And you refer to those as pulmonary  
6 disease?

7 A. Chronic pulmonary disease, right.  
8 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Bronchitis  
9 is something more specific, but in a general way.

10 Q. Now, of those I checked off six items  
11 on here, of those six items that you and Dr. Burns  
12 are in agreement that cigarette smoking causes, is  
13 there an infection out there that could cause any  
14 of these items?

15 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
16 the question. It misstates his prior testimony.  
17 Subject to that, you can answer the question.

18 THE WITNESS: Are there infections  
19 that can cause bronchitis and emphysema and  
20 chronic airway obstruction?

21 BY MR. JEKEL:

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. There are certainly infections that  
24 can increase those symptoms, and it is thought  
25 that, for example, simple whooping cough in

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78

1 children can predispose them to adult bronchitis  
2 and chronic pulmonary disease, for example.

3 Q. Would that be a child who had ever  
4 smoked before?

5 A. I don't believe smoking played a role  
6 in that.

7 Q. All right. Let's talk about a  
8 situation in this instance, we have a patient, he  
9 presents with bronchitis, emphysema, COPD. That  
10 patient has a smoking history of 10 pack years.  
11 Would there be, in your opinion, an infection that  
12 could be the cause of those symptoms or those  
13 diseases?

14 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
15 the question. Very confusing.

16 Subject to the question, you can  
17 answer.

18 MR. JEKEL: We'll let the doctor tell  
19 us what's confusing and not the lawyers. You can  
20 put your objection on the record, but Dr.  
21 Schaffner is intelligent enough to tell me when

22 I'm not being clear.  
23 MR. LATHAM: The objection stands.  
24 MR. JEKEL: Certainly. You can just  
25 say, objection. You don't need to tell the  
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79

1 witness.  
2 THE WITNESS: I'm not exactly clear  
3 on what it is that --  
4 BY MR. JEKEL:  
5 Q. All right. Let's take this, we have  
6 a patient; he presents with bronchitis. That  
7 patient has a smoking history of ten pack-year  
8 history. Are you familiar with how we calculate a  
9 pack year smoking history?  
10 A. Yes.  
11 Q. Do you know what a ten pack-year  
12 smoking history is?  
13 A. I do.  
14 Q. What's your definition of a ten  
15 pack-year smoking history, just so we get it on  
16 the record and we're all not confused.  
17 A. Pack a year for ten years.  
18 Q. All right. Do you think that is a  
19 sufficient smoking history to cause bronchitis?  
20 A. That's not right.  
21 Pack a day for ten years.  
22 Q. Pack a day for ten years.  
23 A. Now, shall we start again?  
24 Q. Yes. Is a ten pack-year history, in  
25 your opinion, sufficient to cause bronchitis or  
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80

1 emphysema?  
2 A. Oh, that's something that I have no  
3 opinion on because those are data that I don't  
4 know.  
5 Q. Okay. What types of -- earlier you  
6 said that there were infections that could -- I  
7 don't think you used the word exacerbate, but may  
8 complicate the symptoms that we see from smoking  
9 disease.  
10 A. Oh, I don't think so.  
11 Q. No? All right. Maybe I'm confused.  
12 A. I think the comment I made that you  
13 are referring to has to do with when one screens a  
14 population for some of these diseases, in an  
15 attempt to pick up, for example, cancer of the  
16 lung, you will run into lesions that look like  
17 cancer of the lung, but in truth were caused by  
18 infections that the patient had previously.  
19 Q. Right. Now, and that, if we go back  
20 to your expert report, is that what you mean --  
21 I'm looking on page 2, the first paragraph, the  
22 sentence beginning with the term, "Consequently,  
23 persons in West Virginia are more" --  
24 A. I have to find that. "Consequently,"  
25 in the middle of the paragraph.  
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81

1 Q. "Persons in West Virginia are more  
2 likely to have false positive radiographic  
3 studies." Is that kind of where we are now? I

4 mean, you said they have lesions, they might show  
5 up, they might look like tumors, but in fact they  
6 were caused by an infectious disease.

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Is that not what you are  
9 communicating here in that sentence, somebody is  
10 communicating here?

11 A. That's what this document was  
12 attempting to communicate.

13 Q. I got you. Now, you say positive  
14 radiographic studies. What radiographic studies  
15 are you including in your -- is that CT scans?

16 A. Well, it would be conventional chest  
17 radiographs, but also CT scans and, again, it's my  
18 informal understanding that the issue of PET scans  
19 has also arisen in this context.

20 Q. So that would include all of those?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Is there a radiographic based study  
23 that you believe can differentiate a lesion in a  
24 lung caused by an infectious disease versus one  
25 caused by or one that is truly a lung cancer?

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82

1 A. I think that there is no single  
2 criterion that exquisitely completely  
3 distinguishes the two, but speaking generically,  
4 if the lesion has some calcium in it, that makes  
5 it much more likely to be a benign lesion probably  
6 as a consequence of a prior infection, although  
7 from time to time one can be fooled. It's  
8 difficult in medicine to expect 100 percent  
9 conformance.

10 Q. And which, the conventional X-ray, a  
11 CT scan, and a PET scan of those, do you have an  
12 opinion as to which is more likely to identify a  
13 lesion as containing calcium?

14 A. I don't. I would leave that specific  
15 question to the radiographers.

16 Q. And what I would like to do is, what  
17 is, other than your vast experience in treating  
18 individuals with infectious diseases, what studies  
19 are you relying on that support the proposition  
20 that you can see lesions under radiographic  
21 studies that appear to be lung cancer, the  
22 beginning tumors of lung cancer, but are in effect  
23 infectious diseases? Are there studies out there  
24 that look at that?

25 A. I'm sure there are. I can't cite

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83

1 them to you chapter and verse.

2 Q. Okay. Let's talk --

3 A. I suspect there are.

4 Q. So as you sit here today, you cannot  
5 identify for me one text or one peer review  
6 article that has looked at that specific issue?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. Now, let's talk about your personal  
9 experience. Have you had an experience where you  
10 saw in a patient on a radiographic study, X-ray,  
11 CT scan -- do you review PET scans, by the way?

12 A. I don't as the PET scan, the official

13 reader, but we have a PET scan here, and we run  
14 into them, as it were, from time to time in the  
15 care of our patients.

16 Q. Right. So you're familiar really  
17 with all three of those types of radiographic  
18 studies?

19 A. Yes. Again, in a general way.

20 Q. In your experience, have you been  
21 faced with the situation where you thought, A,  
22 this is an infectious lesion on somebody's lung  
23 where it turned out to be a cancerous tumor or  
24 vice versa, saw something that you thought was a  
25 cancerous tumor and then it turned out to be an

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84

1 infectious lesion?

2 A. Well, I dare say occasions have  
3 occurred where your -- my experience was such that  
4 when I saw the patient, I, in effect, in trying to  
5 assess the likelihood of whether a lesion was  
6 infectious or malignant or something else, that I  
7 thought it was more likely one than the other, and  
8 it turned out to be the reverse. I think it is  
9 more common to have a lesion etiology unknown that  
10 requires further investigation. I mean, our sense  
11 of -- well, I think it is fair to say, we develop  
12 -- I guess the three categories, this is likely to  
13 be non -- this is likely to be benign, possibly  
14 infectious. Oh, oh, this is likely to be  
15 malignant, or in the middle, huh, beats the heck  
16 out of me. Can't say.

17 Q. And in which of those -- so even in  
18 your practice, you are faced with all three of  
19 those situations, correct?

20 A. Surely.

21 Q. And what is your standard practice  
22 when you are faced with that, under all three of  
23 those scenarios, what is the next step?

24 A. Well, the next step is often to get  
25 radiographic consultation. You might do further

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85

1 radiographic definition if, in consultation with  
2 the radiographer, you think that that is useful.

3 Q. I'd like to -- I'm not sure I  
4 understand that. In that situation, are you  
5 saying, all right, I've got a chest X-ray, I can't  
6 really tell from the chest X-ray, so let's go for  
7 a CT scan?

8 A. That would be a common approach.

9 Q. I just want to make sure I follow you  
10 when you say we'll go back for more radiographic  
11 evidence. I'm sorry. Continue on. What might be  
12 the next step?

13 A. Well, you would have to assess the  
14 patient's total circumstance, but let's for the  
15 moment talk about a patient who is otherwise  
16 reasonably well and has what we might say a  
17 reasonable life expectancy. We're not talking  
18 about assessing somebody who's morbidly ill. It  
19 then is common for one to want to make a more  
20 specific tissue diagnosis, and in consultation  
21 with the pulmonologist might assess not only the

22 characteristics of the lesion, but its location  
23 and come to a decision about what to do next. Can  
24 it be reached by bronchoscopy, do you have to do  
25 needle biopsy, for example?

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86

1 Q. As it relates to location of the  
2 lesion, that's something that you can do just  
3 through the radiographic studies, is it not?

4 A. Largely, yes.

5 Q. Now, do you or are you prepared to  
6 talk about types of cell-type cancers, lung  
7 cancers, and where they are most likely to appear  
8 on the lobes of the lung?

9 A. No. I'm here as an infectious  
10 disease doctor, and I mean, we could discuss that,  
11 but I don't think that's useful because that's not  
12 my area of expertise. I don't hold myself out as  
13 an expert in that matter.

14 Q. Okay. Now, assuming everything else  
15 is equal, you mentioned a bronchoscopy as another  
16 tool as to differentiate whether we are dealing  
17 with benign, possibly malignant, or possibly  
18 infectious, the three categories that you gave me  
19 earlier?

20 A. I don't think those are exactly the  
21 three categories, but it would be a diagnostic  
22 modality which might next be employed, again,  
23 depending upon the location of the lesion and the  
24 likelihood that the bronchoscopy will actually  
25 yield the material that can help you make a

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87

1 diagnosis.

2 Q. Let me ask you this, prior to this  
3 stage or we've gotten to the three categories, can  
4 you look back and do a patient history to also  
5 help you in determining whether we fall into one  
6 of these three categories? For example, were they  
7 in an area where there was an epidemic of a  
8 certain infection, have they been around certain  
9 parts of the world, are they a smoker, how heavily  
10 are they a smoker, is there any medical history  
11 that would help you differentiate in those  
12 categories?

13 A. Certainly by the time we would get to  
14 this spot in the investigation of the patient and  
15 the patient's problem, one would have taken a  
16 medical history, which would include a past  
17 medical history, a family history, a history of  
18 prior exposure to tuberculosis and the like, and  
19 you would have the contents of the earlier  
20 investigation and perhaps some historical  
21 information from the patient, and all of that  
22 would be part of the information that you would  
23 have as you looking at, for example, the X-ray,  
24 where there was what we might call a spot on the  
25 lung, helping you to try and assess the likelihood

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88

1 of putting it in the likely benign, possibly  
2 malignant, or indeterminate category along with  
3 the physical characteristics of the lesion that

4 you have spotted. All of those, of course, are  
5 helpful, but none of them are definitive.  
6 Q. What is the definitive mechanism, if  
7 there is one?  
8 A. Well, the definitive mechanism, of  
9 course, is tissue.  
10 Q. And is that the -- as you go down  
11 your list of what you do and who you consult and  
12 all of the like, is that the last step, take a  
13 tissue sample or a biopsy?  
14 A. I'm not so sure it's always the last  
15 step, but it is what you try to do to make a  
16 definitive diagnosis, and sometimes that fails,  
17 and sometimes there are other things that, for  
18 example, if it's subsequently discovered we're  
19 making this up as we go along here, that the  
20 patient has another lesion, you might be able to  
21 tap into that lesion. It's not as though every  
22 time you get the tissue you always get a  
23 definitive answer is what I'm trying to say. I  
24 mean, there are limitations to histopathology and  
25 its interpretation.

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89

1 Q. Depending on the actual tissue that  
2 you get, you may not be able to make the  
3 determination one way or the other?  
4 A. Correct.  
5 Q. Now, is it your understanding that  
6 collection of tissue at a certain stage is  
7 provided for or not provided for in the  
8 plaintiffs' Medical Monitoring Program that's been  
9 put forth in the Blankenship matter?  
10 A. Well, I haven't memorized it.  
11 Q. Well, I think it --  
12 A. But, well, anyway. I'm sure -- why  
13 don't you direct me to that?  
14 Q. It's all right. We'll move on.  
15 Again, I'm referring to Dr. David  
16 Burns' report. All of the highlighting that we  
17 see in here, is that yours?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. Okay. Did the counsel or did the  
20 attorneys direct you to look at certain sections  
21 of David Burns' report?  
22 A. They gave me this whole stack of  
23 material, and I wouldn't have countenanced that.  
24 I approached the material fresh.  
25 Q. They didn't tell you, take a good

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90

1 look at paragraph 9 in this Burns' report?  
2 A. They did not.  
3 Q. Okay.  
4 A. Or anything like that.  
5 Q. All right. And why don't you just  
6 take a few moments, I'm directing Dr. Schaffner's  
7 attention to paragraph 32 and subparts of the  
8 revised report of Dr. David Burns entitled  
9 "Medical Monitoring," and I believe that is where  
10 it is set forth, paragraph 32 really through 36,  
11 and if you would just take a moment to familiarize  
12 yourself with that.

13 Have you had an opportunity to review  
14 that, Dr. Schaffner?  
15 A. Yes.  
16 Q. We'll be referring to it off and on,  
17 so I just wanted to give you that opportunity. If  
18 I could direct you to page 17, paragraph C, I  
19 guess it's the 3rd paragraph or the 3rd sentence  
20 in paragraph C beginning, "The most promising of  
21 these scientific advances," have you found that  
22 sentence?  
23 A. Yes.  
24 Q. "The most promising of these  
25 scientific advances are rapid (single breath --  
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91

1 whole helical) capital CT and computerized  
2 molecular analysis of airways cell markers."  
3 First off, are you familiar with that  
4 type of radiographic study?  
5 A. Only in the most, most general way.  
6 Not really.  
7 Q. Okay. So can you, as you sit here  
8 today, do you have an opinion as to whether that  
9 modality -- can we call that a modality?  
10 A. Sure.  
11 Q. Is that modality likely to confuse a  
12 malignant tumor with a benign lesion?  
13 A. Well, I can't provide you here the  
14 data on that. I have seen no data to suggest that  
15 it can exquisitely distinguish those.  
16 Q. Have you seen data to the contrary,  
17 that it cannot distinguish those?  
18 A. No. The important data would be that  
19 it can't.  
20 Q. It can't.  
21 I did note that you had, in your  
22 stack of materials, the article from which Dr.  
23 Burns takes that statement. I don't think that  
24 one is it. I know it's in here. I saw it, but I  
25 just wanted to make sure while we're here we had  
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92

1 it. There you go.  
2 Is that not the paper or consensus  
3 statement from the conference from which Dr. Burns  
4 takes his information on the rapid CT?  
5 A. Well, I'm a little -- I'm not so sure  
6 I can tell you exactly because the folks who  
7 participated much in this also published the study  
8 in the Lancet, so I'm not sure that Dr. Burns  
9 relied solely on this, but this does appear to be  
10 the consensus statement of the First International  
11 Conference on Screening for Lung Cancer.  
12 Q. And does the paper in which you have  
13 that, does it not start off, "Lung cancer kills  
14 more individuals than cancers of the breast,  
15 colon, cervix, and prostate combined"?  
16 MR. LATHAM: Is the question does it  
17 say that?  
18 THE WITNESS: Yes. It says that. It  
19 must be limited to the United States.  
20 BY MR. JEKEL:  
21 Q. The Medical Monitoring Program that



22 the plaintiffs have promulgated is going to be  
23 implemented in the United States, is it not?  
24 A. No, no, no, no. I'm just curious  
25 because this is the First International Conference  
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93

1 on Screening for Lung Cancer.  
2 Q. Are you aware of data outside of the  
3 United States that indicates lung cancer does not  
4 kill more individuals than cancers of the breast,  
5 colon, cervix, or prostate combined?  
6 A. I'm not. As I say, I'm not a cancer  
7 epidemiologist.  
8 Q. Moving on in that same, "Recent  
9 scientific advances create an extraordinary  
10 potential to develop a lung cancer screening  
11 program that would prevent untimely deaths of vast  
12 numbers of current or former smokers who remain at  
13 high risk despite smoking cessation. The most  
14 promising of these scientific advances are rapid  
15 (single breath -- whole helical) CT and  
16 computerized molecular analysis of airway cell  
17 markers."  
18 You've not seen the data from which  
19 the conference relies upon in making that  
20 statement; is that correct?  
21 A. I haven't seen the proceedings of  
22 this conference.  
23 Q. Okay. I can assume then that you did  
24 not participate in this conference?  
25 A. No. Certainly, I did not. It's  
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94

1 likely that some of these data at least come from  
2 the Lancet study, but there may be others. I just  
3 don't know.  
4 Q. And the Lancet study says that low  
5 dose CT can greatly improve the likelihood of  
6 detection of small, noncalcified nodules and thus  
7 of lung cancer at an earlier and potentially more  
8 curable stage, does it not?  
9 MR. LATHAM: Hold on a second. Read  
10 from the document and make sure he read it right.  
11 THE WITNESS: Yes. That's the  
12 author's interpretation of their own studies, and  
13 as we will probably quickly agree, this is an  
14 early study, hasn't been confirmed by others, and  
15 it's done in a highly selected population.  
16 BY MR. JEKEL:  
17 Q. I want to go over in detail your  
18 criticisms of this Lancet study. Under the  
19 author's interpretations again, the statement does  
20 go on, in all fairness. "Although false positive  
21 CT results are common, they can be managed with  
22 little use of invasive diagnostic procedures."  
23 Do you agree with the author's  
24 statements there?  
25 A. I agree that that's what they  
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95

1 concluded.  
2 Q. Yes. Absent that's what they  
3 concluded, do you, Dr. Schaffner, agree with the

4 author's statement?  
5 A. It's a generic statement, and I don't  
6 think it would apply to populations, many  
7 populations outside the highly selected  
8 populations in which this study was done. This is  
9 a highly -- this is a conventional early first  
10 study investigating the modality of an agent.  
11 It's not a study that tests this modality in  
12 application to other populations.  
13 Q. Are you saying that they were only  
14 looking at people with lung cancer so that they  
15 didn't have the potential or the problem of seeing  
16 benign lesions and confusing them with malignant?  
17 I'm just not sure I understand your statement.  
18 A. Well, I certainly didn't that say.  
19 Q. Well, you didn't say it in those  
20 words.  
21 A. No. I didn't say that in those words  
22 or any other words.  
23 Q. Or any other words? All right.  
24 A. What I said was, this is a highly  
25 selective population. It's only done in New York  
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96

1 City. They only selected people of a certain  
2 health status, those that could potentially  
3 withstand thoracotomy, and it was selected from,  
4 even within New York City, only two locations, so  
5 this is not a very generic study.  
6 Q. Okay.  
7 A. It's like many such studies, a first  
8 study, taking a look at an issue that requires  
9 repetition in other populations to see whether the  
10 conclusions are generalizable or have to be  
11 modified in substantial ways in other populations.  
12 Q. Do you have any other criticisms than  
13 the ones you just identified for me with regard to  
14 the Lancet study?  
15 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
16 the question.  
17 THE WITNESS: I don't offer them as  
18 criticisms. I just offer them as observations.  
19 I'm not being critical of the authors. I am just  
20 observing that it's an early, highly selected  
21 study in a narrowly defined population, the  
22 conclusions of which can't be generalized. It  
23 calls for the application of similar methods in  
24 other populations to see whether they can be  
25 validated. It is not unusual in medicine to have  
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97

1 subsequent observations modify substantially the  
2 conclusions in an initial paper and indeed to the  
3 point that on occasion quite to the contrary  
4 results are discovered, so we wouldn't take this  
5 as, if you will, the gospel.  
6 BY MR. JEKEL:  
7 Q. No, but in terms of preventive  
8 medicine and getting individuals benefit,  
9 extending someone's life with lung cancer, do you  
10 think that the use of the low dose CT scan could  
11 be justified solely based on this study?  
12 Should we not use it just because you

13 think that this was the first study of a highly  
14 local group of individuals where we only have a  
15 health status, are those reasons enough to not  
16 continue trying to develop the low dose CT scan in  
17 terms of screening for lung cancer?

18 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
19 the question.

20 THE WITNESS: I would emphasize that  
21 in trying to investigate further the utility of  
22 the low dose CT scan for the earlier and accurate  
23 diagnosis of lung cancer, I think it ought to  
24 continue to be used specifically in other control  
25 trials in other populations. One would not make

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98

1 public policy based on this study alone, not even  
2 in New York City.

3 BY MR. JEKEL:

4 Q. Nor West Virginia, I assume, correct?

5 A. Nor West Virginia, nor Missouri, nor  
6 Tennessee, nor the state of Washington.

7 MR. LATHAM: Be a good time for a  
8 break?

9 MR. JEKEL: Yeah.

10 (Recess)

11 MR. JEKEL: We're back on the record.  
12 Have we got everybody? I'll assume that's a yes.  
13 If they've dropped off, we don't know, but we're  
14 going to get started again.

15 ATTORNEY BY PHONE: Talking about  
16 those of us who are on the phone, I assume that an  
17 objection by one defendant applies to all?

18 MR. JEKEL: Absolutely.

19 ATTORNEY BY PHONE: I was pretty sure  
20 that was true, but I just wanted it on the record.

21 MR. JEKEL: Be good.

22 BY MR. JEKEL:

23 Q. Going back to your report, the third  
24 full sentence in the top paragraph, "Dr. Schaffner  
25 is further expected to testify regarding the

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99

1 changes that histoplasmosis, tuberculosis, and  
2 other infectious disease processes can cause  
3 within the respiratory system and that  
4 radiographically these disease processes can be  
5 indistinguishable from the neoplastic disease."

6 I'd just like to expand upon that a  
7 little bit. First, what are the other infectious  
8 disease processes referred in that sentence? Can  
9 you identify those?

10 A. Well, I could identify one.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. And that is the infection with the  
13 organism called dirofilaria immitis.

14 Q. And how is that contracted? Are you  
15 going to spell it out for us all? That's a good  
16 idea.

17 A. By mosquito.

18 Q. We'll give it to the court reporter.

19 Any other infectious disease  
20 processes that you can think of here today that  
21 would fall within that category?

22 A. Those are the ones that occur to me  
23 today.  
24 Q. All right. And I'm going to refer to  
25 this one as DI, or is there a short term for this?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

100

1 A. It's also called the dog heart worm.

2 Q. All right. We'll go with dog heart  
3 worm disease.

4 Have you seen any data discussing  
5 within the last ten years how many cases of dog  
6 heart worm disease in citizens of West Virginia  
7 there have been?

8 A. I have none.

9 Q. Is that a reportable disease?

10 A. I don't believe it is. Reportable,  
11 you mean reportable by law or Health Department  
12 regulation as an official communicable disease  
13 that must be reported to the Health Department, I  
14 assume?

15 Q. Either/or. Either like the CDC has a  
16 list of reportable diseases, and then each state  
17 may have a list of reportable diseases; is that  
18 correct?

19 A. Small distinction. The CDC can't  
20 require that diseases be reported to it. To it,  
21 that's a state function, so each state has a list  
22 of reportable diseases. I'm not aware that this  
23 is a reportable disease in that sense.

24 Q. In West Virginia?

25 A. Yes.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

101

1 Q. What about here in the great State of  
2 Tennessee?

3 A. It is not.

4 Q. Okay. What are the symptoms of the  
5 dog heart worm disease?

6 A. In humans?

7 Q. In humans, yes.

8 A. It presents as a pulmonary nodule.

9 Q. Is it associated with any other  
10 symptoms?

11 A. Usually not.

12 Q. Okay. Histoplasmosis. I'm sorry, I  
13 should have done a little more research before  
14 today, but I didn't get around to it, so I don't  
15 know anything about histoplasmosis. Can you give  
16 me the five-minute lecture on the cause and the  
17 symptoms of that disease?

18 A. Sure. It's caused by a fungus.  
19 Histoplasma capsulatum, which is resident in the  
20 soil in certain parts of the country, and West  
21 Virginia is within what's called the endemic area  
22 for histoplasmosis. It's transmitted to people  
23 who have close contact with the soil and sometimes  
24 even by the wind. The organism is inhaled and  
25 then can cause an acute infection, and it also has

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

102

1 some chronic cavitory infectious component to it,  
2 but the point that's here is that the body  
3 frequently contains the fungus, and within the

4 lung sets up an inflammatory reaction around the  
5 fungus, which over time coalesces and becomes  
6 harder and can present on chest X-ray as one or  
7 more pulmonary nodules.

8 Q. Okay. How many cases of  
9 histoplasmosis have you personally been involved  
10 in?

11 A. Oh, many, because Tennessee is also  
12 within the endemic area for histoplasmosis.

13 Q. Is there a certain age group or  
14 section group that this disease attacks or is more  
15 likely to occur in?

16 A. Well, the initial infection, which is  
17 often a trivial one, it may even be asymptomatic,  
18 can occur in children and young adults as they are  
19 out in the environment. It's not so much that the  
20 symptomatic cases are important here because even  
21 the asymptomatic cases, individuals, people have  
22 asymptomatic infections, can go on as the body  
23 contains this infection to later in life, sometime  
24 in their adulthood, present with chest X-rays that  
25 can have pulmonary nodules on them that will

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

103

1 present an element of confusion in interpretation  
2 or uncertainty in interpretation.

3 Q. And I just want to make sure I have  
4 this right. It's a disease that children and  
5 young adults are most affected with, but which  
6 some individuals may carry with them until  
7 adulthood asymptotically, but it would appear as  
8 a lesion on their lung?

9 A. That's, yeah, that's pretty close.

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. Those children and young adults don't  
12 all get disease -- disease implies symptoms -- but  
13 they may have an asymptomatic infection, and  
14 indeed the majority of them are asymptomatic or  
15 trivial, very mild.

16 Q. Okay. But let's say a child, what  
17 are the symptoms, if I was symptomatic with  
18 histoplasmosis, what are those symptoms?

19 A. Well, it could just be a prolonged  
20 upper respiratory infection or the symptoms can be  
21 determined very much by dose of exposure. We  
22 have, for example, it's well described in the  
23 literature to have individuals, whether children  
24 or young adults, who are susceptible suddenly  
25 exposed to a large dose of histoplasma in the

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

104

1 environment, they can get an acute pulmonary  
2 infection, which results in high fever, chills,  
3 striking pulmonary infiltrates, profound feeling  
4 of unwell that can last for, oh, a period of a few  
5 weeks.

6 Q. And was that in an adult?

7 A. It could be in a young adult, yes, or  
8 an older adult who is susceptible, right.

9 Q. But let's take the situation in a  
10 younger adult, the upper -- he has the  
11 histoplasmosis, the infection goes away, is my  
12 understanding correct though that he still may

13 have something in his lung which later on in life  
14 may appear as a nodule?  
15 A. That's correct.  
16 Q. Okay. Even though he's not suffering  
17 the effects of the infection?  
18 A. Indeed, because he's not suffering  
19 the effects of the infection, what the body has  
20 been able to do is contain the infection, and it  
21 lays down fibrous tissue or granulomatous response  
22 around it, and that very host response is what  
23 creates the nodule that you can see on the chest  
24 X-ray.  
25 Q. Is there any other type of screening  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

105

1 tool, let's say a blood sample that would turn up  
2 the existence of the histoplasmosis in an  
3 individual that has this lesion on their lung?  
4 A. The short answer is that the other  
5 tests you could do, whether a blood test or a skin  
6 test, would simply indicate prior exposure to the  
7 organism. That would be common. The question  
8 would be, what's causing this spot on the lung?  
9 It could be that, or it could be something else,  
10 particularly if the individual has other risk  
11 factors apropos with the people whom you are  
12 trying to screen here, i.e., they were long-term  
13 smokers.  
14 Q. Just going back to the dog heart worm  
15 disease in humans, again, is there an age group or  
16 sex group or racial group that that disease is more  
17 likely to occur in?  
18 A. Well, that's also not a disease. In  
19 humans --  
20 Q. I'm sorry.  
21 A. In humans, it's an asymptomatic  
22 infection. The worm is transmitted to the human,  
23 if you will, speaking teleologically, the worm  
24 finds it's in the wrong host, shouldn't be there,  
25 it gets stuck in the lung, and at that point a  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

106

1 very similar enclosure phenomenon occurs. The  
2 body walls it off. You get a foreign body  
3 reaction, the worm dies, but you are left with the  
4 scar, and the scar looks like a nodule when you  
5 take a picture of it with an X-ray.  
6 Because we do more X-rays on adults,  
7 those are the ones in whom we find occasionally  
8 nodules of unknown cause that sometimes lead to  
9 further diagnostic studies.  
10 Q. Are there other factors -- we talked  
11 about smoking. Are there other factors that you  
12 would go down in trying to rule in or rule out a  
13 lesion being the heart worm or histoplasmosis or  
14 tuberculosis?  
15 A. For each of those, you would have  
16 some aspects of the medical history that would be  
17 useful in somewhat increasing the odds in one way  
18 or another, or at least in forming your decision,  
19 I should say. For example, for the dog heart  
20 worm, there are endemic areas in the country, and  
21 there are areas where the dog heart worm is not a

22 problem to the veterinarians and to pet owners.  
23 In those parts of the country, you don't have to  
24 worry about these lesions unless the person lived  
25 in an endemic area and then moved, and we have a

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

107

1 pretty mobile population.  
2 West Virginia is within the endemic  
3 area of dog heart worm. It's in the endemic area  
4 for histoplasmosis, so that would not help you  
5 distinguish what this nodule is, but you would  
6 know that the individual potentially could have  
7 been exposed to histo, and like the rest of the  
8 country, there's tuberculosis in West Virginia and  
9 more 20 years ago, according to this article in  
10 the West Virginia Medical Journal than now, so  
11 clearly a proportion of the population is going to  
12 be left with those scars.

13 Q. Have you attempted to design within  
14 the parameters of what the plaintiffs in this case  
15 have put forth a screening program that could take  
16 into account some of the false negative problems  
17 that the infectious disease may cause in this  
18 screening program? Have you thought of ways that  
19 we could work around it or other procedures that  
20 could be implemented that could deal with that?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Because you go on to say -- well,  
23 I'm not sure it goes on, but you have not done  
24 that?

25 A. I have not done that.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

108

1 Q. Could you do that?  
2 A. I would not do that.  
3 Q. Why would you not do that?  
4 A. Because be mindful of the fact that I  
5 am not expert here, and so I am very dependent on  
6 experts in cancer treatment and cancer longevity,  
7 et cetera, but I don't think it's been shown that  
8 the -- shown to the point that national groups,  
9 expert advisory groups recommend such screening  
10 that earlier intervention will securely prolong  
11 life, improve the quality of life or improve  
12 survival, and absent that, one would be loath to  
13 enter into a screening program.

14 Q. Does that have to do with the  
15 mortality rates of patients with lung cancers? Is  
16 that what we're talking about here, until science  
17 finds a better way to treat people more  
18 effectively with lung cancer, the program that the  
19 plaintiffs have proposed should not be started at  
20 all?

21 A. Well, that would be one of the end  
22 points. You would want to document some benefit  
23 to the individuals screened and those who are  
24 found to be truly positive.

25 Q. Continuing on in your expert report,

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

109

1 "Dr. Schaffner is also expected to testify that  
2 the" -- I'm sorry -- "medical monitoring proposals  
3 of plaintiffs' experts do not comport with

4 generally accepted standards of medical practice."  
5 The first question I have for you is,  
6 what proposals of plaintiffs' experts are you  
7 referring to in the first instance? What have you  
8 reviewed to date?

9 A. I'm sorry?

10 Q. I'm sorry. It was inartfully worded.  
11 What plaintiffs' experts are you  
12 referring to in that statement? We've talked  
13 about Dr. Burns, and you have that in front of  
14 you.

15 A. Well, perhaps that should have been  
16 singular.

17 Q. I just want to -- and that's one  
18 point I need to clarify here. Is the only Medical  
19 Monitoring Program that you have reviewed  
20 contained in the report of Dr. Burns?

21 A. Yes.

22 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
23 the question. Subject to that --

24 THE WITNESS: Yes, it is.

25 BY MR. JEKEL:

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

110

1 Q. So we could change that statement to  
2 say, Dr. Schaffner is also expected to testify  
3 that the medical monitoring proposal of Dr. David  
4 Burns contained in his revised report dated -- is  
5 that February 3rd, 2000?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. Does not comport with generally  
8 accepted standards of medical practice?

9 MR. LATHAM: I'm going to object to  
10 the form of the question. Dr. Schaffner is not  
11 going to be limited by this report because Dr.  
12 Burns subsequently modified what he proposed in  
13 his deposition, and in addition, there are other  
14 experts in the case that have modified, so he's  
15 not going to be limited by this report in his  
16 opinions.

17 MR. JEKEL: I'd like to find out, you  
18 know, if he's going to expand or look at other  
19 reports, I want the opportunity to talk to him  
20 again about what proposals he has reviewed.

21 BY MR. JEKEL:

22 Q. Have you reviewed Dr. Burns'  
23 deposition?

24 A. I have not.

25 Q. Do you expect to do that?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

111

1 A. If Mr. O'Tuel and his colleagues ask  
2 me to do so, I would do so.

3 Q. Just as you sit here today, the only  
4 medical monitoring proposal from the plaintiffs  
5 that you have seen and are prepared to say  
6 generally does not comport with generally accepted  
7 standards of medical practice is the one contained  
8 in the February 3rd, 2000 report of David Burns,  
9 correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Now, what generally accepted  
12 standards of medical practice are you referring to



13 in that statement?  
14 A. I was referring to the general  
15 guidelines put forward by the Preventive Services,  
16 United States Preventive Services Task Force and  
17 other bodies concerning screening in populations.  
18 Q. Were those documents included in this  
19 stack of stuff you gave me today?  
20 A. No. They're included in my general  
21 medical background experience and other things  
22 that I've encountered during the course of my  
23 professional life.  
24 Q. If I were to ask you to prepare a  
25 list of those documents that identified the

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

112

1 generally accepted standards of medical practice  
2 for which you refer to in this statement, could  
3 you provide me a written list?  
4 A. I wasn't thinking of it principally  
5 as this was drawn up as a specific list. It was  
6 more a product of my general background and  
7 expertise.  
8 Q. I'm trying to find out if there is a  
9 journal, text, monograph anywhere that you will be  
10 relying upon for that statement that the Burns  
11 report, as you sit here today, does not comport  
12 with generally accepted standards of medical  
13 practice.  
14 A. Well, as I sit here today, I can't  
15 indicate a single document that I would consider  
16 he "relied upon."  
17 Q. Are there multiple documents that you  
18 would rely upon?  
19 A. Well, there are multiple documents  
20 I'm sure that I have used, and I would more speak  
21 to my general expertise and background.  
22 Q. And in the effort to save time, if I  
23 were to ask you to provide me a list of those  
24 documents, rather than ask you what one, what one,  
25 could you produce me that list?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

113

1 A. Well, certainly not here today.  
2 Q. No, no, no.  
3 A. And I'd have to consider it, because  
4 I'm not thinking that I went through the medical  
5 library or even my own files, et cetera, and  
6 reviewed a list of -- a series of reports and  
7 documents. I'm generally familiar with a number  
8 of them.  
9 Q. Then let's go about it this way.  
10 What exactly did you do with this report to come  
11 up with the statement that it does not comport  
12 with generally accepted standards of medical  
13 practice? What are the generally accepted  
14 standards of medical practice that you were  
15 referring to there? Can we make a list?  
16 A. The screening, several of the  
17 proposals for screening are outside those as it is  
18 said in the next sentence that are endorsed or  
19 recommended by any major medical groups, and so  
20 the proposals, as they sit, are obviously novel,  
21 they are different from, and therefore they are

22 outside the accepted standards of medical  
23 practice, which do not require that kind of  
24 screening or endorse that kind of screening.  
25 Q. Because a major medical group does or  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

114

1 does not endorse a certain screening program, does  
2 that mean it's not generally accepted?

3 And I guess the question is, does a  
4 practice need to be endorsed by a medical group  
5 before you will consider it generally accepted?

6 A. I would think that by and large in  
7 this era, we would expect proposals, particularly  
8 those that are comprehensive, extensive, and  
9 expensive, to be the considered recommendations of  
10 expert medical groups evaluating data from a  
11 number of sources and making sure that they comply  
12 with the standards for screening programs that  
13 were previously discussed.

14 Q. Those were a lot of words. I'm not  
15 sure if I understood them all.

16 I want -- did you do anything, did  
17 you read his report on Medical Monitoring Program,  
18 what specifically did you do to say that program  
19 is not generally accepted? Did you say, is it  
20 endorsed by a medical group, major medical group?  
21 If not, it's not generally accepted, was that the  
22 extent of what you did to come up with those  
23 statements?

24 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
25 the question.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

115

1 THE WITNESS: It clearly was not the  
2 only thing. It was not the extent of what I did.  
3 Part of what I did, as I said before, was  
4 reference that with my own general experience and  
5 background as well as my knowledge of what several  
6 of these groups have stated in the past, and I was  
7 very aware that there were a number of groups that  
8 had not endorsed this kind of screening program.  
9 BY MR. JEKEL:

10 Q. Do you know Dr. Merrill?  
11 Walter H. Merrill, surgical  
12 oncologist at the Vanderbilt University Medical  
13 Center?

14 A. I know a Walter Merrill who is a  
15 cardiothoracic surgeon.

16 Q. How about a Richard N. Pearson, III,  
17 MD?

18 A. He may also be a member of our  
19 surgical faculty.

20 Q. John R. Roberts, MD?

21 A. Likewise.

22 Q. Dr. David Parbone?

23 A. He's a member of our medical oncology  
24 faculty.

25 Q. Kenneth R. Hande, MD?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

116

1 A. Ken Hande is also a member of our  
2 oncology faculty.

3 Q. Pabs E. Check?

4 A. I'm not familiar with that name.  
5 Q. How about Hak Choy, MD?  
6 A. I'm also not familiar with that  
7 person.  
8 Q. Those are both radiation oncologists  
9 here at Vanderbilt. Did you at all discuss with  
10 these individuals, who Vanderbilt University  
11 advertises as those physicians who treat lung  
12 cancer, the plaintiffs' proposal contained in Dr.  
13 Burns' report?  
14 A. I did not.  
15 Q. Did you ask them whether they thought  
16 the screening mechanisms and those items were  
17 generally accepted or whether that was something  
18 they would endorse?  
19 A. I did not.  
20 Q. What medical groups, major medical  
21 groups, did you contact in an effort to determine  
22 whether they have seen the program as proposed by  
23 the plaintiffs and whether they have, in fact,  
24 endorsed it?  
25 A. I did not contact any medical groups.  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

117

1 Q. What major medical groups are you  
2 referring to in there?  
3 A. The U.S. Preventive Services Task  
4 Force.  
5 Q. All right.  
6 A. The National Cancer Institute, the  
7 American Cancer Society.  
8 Q. Okay.  
9 A. And there are a number of others with  
10 which I am not quite as specifically familiar.  
11 American College of Physicians, I believe, also.  
12 Q. And did you go to a document of these  
13 groups or some statement that they may have put  
14 forth that you looked at to say, hey, you know,  
15 they don't endorse this screening program? How  
16 did you make the determination that the groups  
17 that you identified did not endorse a program  
18 similar to the plaintiffs'?  
19 A. I did that.  
20 Q. You did that? You did? Do you have  
21 these statements and item somewhere in your  
22 office, possibly, or are they in here?  
23 A. I think the NCI statement is there.  
24 The others I think I got out of the library, but I  
25 don't remember exactly.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

118

1 I don't think I have them in my  
2 office or at home.  
3 Q. Would it be something other than, I  
4 think you're right, the NCI statement was in  
5 there. The other three, the Preventive Services,  
6 the American Cancer Society, and possibly the  
7 American College of Physicians, is that something  
8 you could give me a citation to that I could go  
9 and look at their statement?  
10 A. Well, my recollection is that I've  
11 seen the American U.S. Preventive Service Task  
12 Force report. I don't believe I have that in my

13 office, although it's possible.  
14 Q. Do you know what year that report  
15 was?  
16 A. I don't.  
17 Certainly not off the top of my head.  
18 I looked at the latest at the time, and this has  
19 happened within the last months.  
20 Q. What about the others, the American  
21 Cancer Society?  
22 A. I can't give you a specific citation.  
23 And when I saw them, I didn't Xerox  
24 them or anything.  
25 Q. And the American College of  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

119

1 Physicians?  
2 A. Likewise.  
3 Q. Likewise. Did you ask counsel for  
4 Phillip Morris, or I'm sorry, counsel for RJR to  
5 provide you copies of those materials?  
6 A. They provided the NCI, and I believe  
7 I looked at the others myself.  
8 MR. LATHAM: That he is referring to.  
9 MR. JEKEL: Very good. Appreciate  
10 that.  
11 BY MR. JEKEL:  
12 Q. I think we lost somebody.  
13 Moving on in your report, he is  
14 further expected to testify that the programs  
15 proposed by plaintiffs' experts, again, to date,  
16 that only includes Dr. Burns, correct?  
17 A. Well, I think in discussions with  
18 counsel, it was anticipated that there would be  
19 more than one expert rather than limit, but --  
20 Q. I'm just trying to find out what you  
21 have discussed or who you have discussed in  
22 addition to Dr. Burns today so I can ask you about  
23 it, and if it's limited to Dr. Burns today, that's  
24 fine. If it's not, let me know.  
25 A. I believe we've only discussed Dr.  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

120

1 Burns to date.  
2 Q. Thank you.  
3 "He is further expected to testify  
4 that the programs proposed by plaintiffs' experts  
5 may put the citizens of West Virginia in serious  
6 risk of harm due to false negatives and false  
7 positives."  
8 Now, does that statement, "The  
9 citizens of West Virginia," is that the entire  
10 population of West Virginia or that subset group  
11 of the population that would fall under  
12 plaintiffs' program?  
13 A. The latter.  
14 Q. The latter.  
15 A. Principally.  
16 Q. So citizens of West Virginia could be  
17 limited to those citizens of West Virginia that  
18 fall within the plaintiffs' definition of getting  
19 medical monitoring?  
20 A. And those members of families,  
21 relations and friends, who in the course of

22 medical monitoring and the subsequent treatment,  
23 because adverse effects occurred to the person who  
24 was monitored would also suffer grief and concern  
25 and et cetera.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

121

1 Q. Basically, someone thinking that they  
2 have cancer when really, in effect, all they have  
3 is the dog heart worm, correct? Is that what you  
4 are referring to there?

5 A. Like that.

6 Q. What other harm -- what other  
7 serious risk of harm are you identifying as it  
8 relates to false negatives and false positives?

9 A. Well, the false positive issue is one  
10 where people can be inappropriately identified in  
11 the initial screening process as having a lesion  
12 consistent with a neoplasm that then requires them  
13 with this new knowledge to have a further work-up,  
14 and that the work-up might well include an  
15 invasive procedure, and the invasive procedure may  
16 be associated with adverse events.

17 Q. What are the invasive procedures that  
18 you are contemplating?

19 A. Well, if a lesion consistent with,  
20 but not yet diagnostic of a cancer is determined,  
21 one might, as we discussed previously, undergo  
22 bronchoscopy, skinny needle aspiration, one might  
23 even be subjected to a thoracotomy in order to get  
24 tissue, and all of those procedures have hazards  
25 associated with them.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

122

1 Q. I'm just -- what type of hazard do  
2 you require before it raises to the level of  
3 serious risk of harm? Is there any mathematical  
4 quotient that goes along with that? Is serious  
5 your word? Did you put that in there?

6 A. Serious is a word that I'm content  
7 with because I think the issues are the ones that  
8 relate to serious adverse effects. Everything  
9 from potential anesthesia-related deaths to a  
10 pneumothorax that might occur or a complicating  
11 infection in any of these more invasive diagnostic  
12 procedures.

13 Q. I just want to make sure that that  
14 sentence that we're talking about, the serious  
15 risk of harm that you are referring to is the  
16 invasive procedures that we've identified in  
17 addition to the general problems of a person maybe  
18 believing that they do or do not have cancer when  
19 the opposite is true?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. So are those all of the serious risks  
22 of harm that you are dealing with here, is that  
23 the universe?

24 MR. LATHAM: Again, are you talking  
25 about false positives here?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

123

1 MR. JEKEL: False positives or false  
2 negatives.

3 THE WITNESS: Well, the issue's

4 related to -- generically speaking, I think that  
5 is correct. You could also have concerns related  
6 to false negatives, people perhaps being  
7 complacent when they might be more concerned about  
8 the tumor that is really there, but the test  
9 reveals as negative. This is not a sentence that  
10 addresses the issue of even among the true  
11 positives what's the benefit.

12 BY MR. JEKEL:

13 Q. That's the next statement, is it not,  
14 in your report?

15 A. Not exactly, because it doesn't  
16 address the issue of harm, but it could be  
17 encompassed within that.

18 Q. Okay. Now, the last statement there,  
19 "Additionally, screening asymptomatic patients for  
20 lung cancer has not been shown to reduce mortality  
21 or morbidity, a prerequisite for an acceptable  
22 monitoring program."

23 My first question is, what is your  
24 current knowledge of what the mortality rate is  
25 for a person with lung cancer? And it may depend

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

124

1 on what stage that cancer is, and we can break it  
2 down, if that's necessary.

3 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
4 the question.

5 THE WITNESS: It's outside of my area  
6 of expertise, and I rely here on the statements  
7 from authoritative bodies such as the National  
8 Cancer Institute that indicate that to date there  
9 has not been a therapeutic program that impacts  
10 favorably the mortality of people who have lung  
11 cancer.

12 BY MR. JEKEL:

13 Q. Fair enough. What statements are you  
14 relying on, and it may be, there may be a whole  
15 host of them. Again, I just want to make sure I  
16 have the universe of the materials you will rely  
17 on for the statement that you need to reduce  
18 mortality and morbidity for something to be an  
19 acceptable monitoring program.

20 A. I think that that goes back to the  
21 indications for design for and standards for  
22 screening programs that we would find in texts of  
23 clinical epidemiology such as I have indicated  
24 before. In other words, unless there is a  
25 benefit, why screen? And unless you can reliably

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

125

1 assure people that there will be a benefit, it's  
2 an intrusive thing to do.

3 The first admonition of the  
4 Hippocratic oath is, don't do any harm, and so you  
5 would want to make sure that you're not doing any  
6 harm.

7 Q. I understand. However, your  
8 expertise is not in, let's say, hypothetically  
9 speaking, that through the program that plaintiffs  
10 have designed, we could detect 50 more cancers in  
11 a Stage 1 state, lung cancers through this  
12 process, and that 80 percent of Stage 1 cancers

13 could be treatable, would treating the 80 percent  
14 of that number be a benefit?  
15 A. Only if it resulted in decreased  
16 morbidity and increased longevity and an increased  
17 quality of life, and my understanding is that that  
18 goal has not yet been demonstrated.  
19 Q. Okay. I know earlier we talked about  
20 the diseases that you opined or that you would  
21 agree cigarette smoking can cause. Were there --  
22 and again, I'm referring to Dr. Burns' report,  
23 paragraph 7. Are there diseases, other than those  
24 listed in paragraph 7 of Dr. Burns' report that  
25 you believe as a medical doctor cigarette smoking

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

126

1 causes?  
2 A. I don't believe so. I can't think of  
3 any, at least off the top of my head, but I'm not  
4 here representing myself as an expert on the  
5 relationship of cigarette smoking and consequent  
6 disease.  
7 Q. What about on the treatment of lung  
8 cancers, Stage 1 versus Stage 2?  
9 A. Certainly not.  
10 Q. That may eliminate some of these  
11 questions.

12 Doctor, do you have an opinion as to  
13 whether a person who has a history of smoking  
14 cigarettes is at a significant increased risk of  
15 contracting serious latent disease above a person  
16 who does not have a history of smoking cigarettes?

17 A. I'm not sure -- I don't know what you  
18 mean by latent disease.

19 Q. Something that may take a period of  
20 time to discover. I smoked for five years, smoked  
21 for ten years, that the last day of that tenth  
22 year I looked good on my lungs. Five years later  
23 I have some spots on my lungs. That's what I am  
24 referring to as latent, may take a while to  
25 develop after the process or the activity stops,

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

127

1 smoking.  
2 A. In light of that helpful explanation,  
3 could you rephrase the question?

4 Q. I'm not sure I can.  
5 Do you have an opinion, Doctor, if a  
6 person who has a history of smoking cigarettes is  
7 at a significantly increased risk of contracting a  
8 disease that may not be discovered for some time  
9 after that person may stop smoking, as opposed to  
10 a person who has never smoked?

11 A. I must admit, I'm still a little  
12 confused by the question, and the issue aside of  
13 dose and duration of cigarette smoking, let's just  
14 deal with it in a vague, general way. I think  
15 you're asking me whether I agree that someone who  
16 has smoked some dose and duration of cigarettes  
17 sufficient to put them at risk, disease X, can  
18 discontinue smoking, be at that point free of  
19 disease X, but develop disease X years later.

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. If that's your question, my general

22 knowledge is, it depends on the disease, but  
23 clearly the answer is yes.

24 Q. Now, on the question of dose  
25 duration, is that an area, as it relates to

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

128

1 cigarette smoking and disease that you feel you  
2 have expertise in?

3 A. I explicitly do not.

4 Q. All right. So you cannot tell me how  
5 many cigarettes a day for how long a period of  
6 time a person must smoke before they are at an  
7 increased risk or at which no risk of developing  
8 lung cancer exists?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Okay. Do you have any expertise as  
11 it relates to the incidence of lung cancer and at  
12 what age or sex that begins to climb?

13 A. I do not.

14 Q. Dr. Schaffner, does any of your --  
15 would your expertise allow you to separate out  
16 from smoking and other environmental factors the  
17 incidence of lung cancer and when it begins to  
18 climb?

19 A. It does not.

20 Q. All right. Do you have an opinion as  
21 to whether cigarette smoking is addictive?

22 A. I do not.

23 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether  
24 nicotine is addictive?

25 A. I do not.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

129

1 Q. Have you ever been a smoker?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. For how long and of how many packs?

4 A. No packs. I smoked a pipe for about  
5 20 years, usually in the evenings, and an  
6 occasional cigar.

7 Q. And you don't smoke the cigar  
8 anymore?

9 A. I don't smoke the cigar anymore or  
10 the pipe.

11 Q. When you're evaluating and treating  
12 patients, what other risk factors in that  
13 particular patient do you consider?

14 I guess, to put it the other way,  
15 when you are evaluating a patient, do you look at  
16 other risk factors that patient may have? The  
17 patient presents with an infectious disease,  
18 patient has a history of cigarette smoking, is  
19 that something you'll take into account?

20 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
21 the question.

22 THE WITNESS: Well, you try to take a  
23 comprehensive medical history, and you ascertain  
24 as much information as you can about the patient.  
25 When you are a generalist, this is very elaborate.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

130

1 When you are performing infectious diseases  
2 consultation, it can be very focused, and so it  
3 depends on the circumstance, if we're working with



4 a trauma surgeon who has got an acute abdominal  
5 problem, the larger medical history of the patient  
6 is of less immediate moment than in other  
7 circumstances, but generically speaking, you would  
8 like to know as much about the patient as possible  
9 in order to help you care for the patient  
10 appropriately.

11 BY MR. JEKEL:

12 Q. The patient presents to you with  
13 abdominal infection, the patient also presents  
14 with a serious history of cigarette smoking and  
15 maybe some other symptoms, just general shortness  
16 of breath, when you are developing a plan or  
17 treatment for that particular patient, do you  
18 consider that smoking history in the treatment you  
19 will give a patient?

20 A. You may. You might well.

21 Q. If this was the first time that  
22 patient had been to the Vanderbilt facility here,  
23 would you order a chest X-ray on that patient?

24 A. Now, you are speaking to me in my  
25 context as an infectious diseases consultant?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

131

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. And so the primary care physician  
3 would already have made a determination about  
4 whether for that physician's reasons a chest X-ray  
5 would be appropriate. If we see the patient for  
6 the abdominal infection, that I believe you  
7 suggested, and the patient has symptoms that are  
8 also referable to the chest, a cough or something  
9 abdominal on physical examination, and there was  
10 not a recent chest X-ray, certainly in that  
11 context we would suggest that a chest X-ray be  
12 performed.

13 Q. Can I assume that you have not  
14 reviewed any of Christa Blankenship's or Maya  
15 Sebo's medical records?

16 A. You may so assume.

17 Q. So as you sit here today, you cannot  
18 tell me whether Ms. Blankenship and Sebo are at an  
19 increased risk of developing lung cancer?

20 A. I cannot.

21 Q. I did note in the copy of the Third  
22 Amended Complaint that is in your stack,  
23 throughout there is some handwriting that appears  
24 in the margins, and maybe I can find some, I just  
25 wanted to find out, is that your handwriting?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

132

1 A. That's not my handwriting.

2 Q. Do you know whose handwriting it is?

3 A. I don't.

4 Q. Do you attach any significance to the  
5 handwriting that appears in that document?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Again, the copy of this document, was  
8 that provided to you for counsel for RJR?

9 A. Yes, it was.

10 Q. Have you asked them whether this was  
11 their handwriting?

12 A. I didn't pay any attention to the

13 handwriting.  
14 Q. Okay. Doctor, are you aware that in  
15 this case the Court will actually determine the  
16 extent of the -- or the parameters of any Medical  
17 Monitoring Program put into place?  
18 A. That's come up in the discussions. I  
19 think that's been suggested to me. That's what's  
20 being asked of the Court, as I understand it, by  
21 the plaintiffs.  
22 Q. Do you think that's reasonable?  
23 Unreasonable?  
24 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
25 the question. Calls for legal conclusion.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

133

1 THE WITNESS: With respect to the  
2 Court, I think it is preferable that expert  
3 medical advisory committees appropriately  
4 constituted look at good, solid data from a number  
5 of sources and provide the kind of advice and  
6 guidance that such expert advisory groups do to  
7 all aspects of medical practice, and yes, if  
8 asked, I think that's a preferable way to go than  
9 to ask a Court to do that.  
10 BY MR. JEKEL:  
11 Q. Earlier I talked about the screening  
12 programs that you have been involved in. Have any  
13 of those risen to a level of what you would call  
14 medical monitoring?  
15 A. Oh, now you will have to define for  
16 me the distinction, because I asked that before,  
17 and you wanted me to include screening.  
18 Q. Screening may just be one part of it.  
19 I'm getting more to the treatment aspect of it,  
20 and do you have in your mind a definition of  
21 medical monitoring that you used when you reviewed  
22 these materials?  
23 A. My notion was that these materials  
24 rather defined medical monitoring for me, that  
25 they were a screening program, a proposed

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

134

1 screening program that had treatment, obvious  
2 treatment implications, even though the specific  
3 treatment was not specified. I thought that was a  
4 reasonable assumption, else why screen to find  
5 people who are positive?  
6 The answer to your question is that  
7 all of the screening programs that I have been  
8 involved in had defined results about what  
9 implications for what one did with positive  
10 results, individuals who are found to be positive.  
11 Sometimes in the context of the Infection Control  
12 Program, it might just mean instituting the  
13 appropriate infection isolation precautions.  
14 Q. Earlier we talked about, I think this  
15 was one of the materials you referred to, the U.S.  
16 Preventive Service Task Force report. Is that, in  
17 fact, the document?  
18 A. Well, this is kind of my memory of  
19 the document. Actually, this looks like maybe a  
20 larger version than the one I saw.  
21 Q. I may have some.

22 A. But I can't -- yeah, it looks  
23 similar.  
24 Q. And this was a document that you were  
25 relying on?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

135

1 A. I think so.  
2 Yeah.  
3 Q. Well, if you're not, now is the time  
4 to say it.  
5 A. Well, I didn't -- that looks like a  
6 copy of the document, I think. I can't remember  
7 if that's the same size or whether it's been  
8 enlarged a little bit. My memory is a little  
9 murky about that.  
10 Q. I just have a small excerpt here, and  
11 I want to direct you to a certain --  
12 A. I do think mine was a smaller. It's  
13 not the 8-and-a-half by 11 format. I think the  
14 book I held in my hand was somewhat smaller than  
15 that.  
16 Q. Part 2 under Mythology.  
17 A. Mythology?  
18 Q. Methodology, I'm sorry. It's been a  
19 long day for me, too. You don't know what time I  
20 had to get up to be here this morning.  
21 A. You're nice to tolerate my teasing.  
22 Q. You're nice to tolerate my questions.  
23 A. I'm sorry.  
24 Q. I just want to make sure that this is  
25 part of a document that you relied upon, and if

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

136

1 you will indulge me, I'm going to ask you if you  
2 agree with the statement that I have highlighted  
3 there.  
4 "The second criterion for selecting  
5 preventative" --  
6 A. Excuse me for a moment. May I just  
7 take a moment?  
8 Q. Go right ahead.  
9 A. I think I'm ready.  
10 Q. Doctor, referring to the highlighted  
11 paragraph in the section on Methodology, the  
12 authors note, do they not, that "The second  
13 criterion for selecting preventative services for  
14 review was that the maneuver had to be performed  
15 in the clinical setting. Only those preventive  
16 services that would be carried out by clinicians  
17 in the context of routine healthcare were  
18 examined. Findings should not be extrapolated to  
19 preventive interventions performed in other  
20 settings. Screen tests are evaluated in terms of  
21 their effectiveness when performed during the  
22 clinical encounter, i.e. (case finding) screening  
23 tests performed solely at schools, work sites,  
24 health fairs, and other community locations are  
25 generally outside the scope of this report. Also,

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

137

1 preventive interventions implemented outside the  
2 clinical setting (e.g., health and safety  
3 legislation, mandatory screening, community health

4 promotion) are not specifically evaluated,  
5 although clinicians can play an important role in  
6 promoting such programs and encouraging the  
7 participation of their patients. References to  
8 those types of interventions are made occasionally  
9 in sections of this book."

10 Did I read that correctly?

11 A. You did.

12 Q. The first sentence in there, that the  
13 screening had to be performed by clinicians in the  
14 clinical setting, is it your understanding that  
15 the program proposed by the plaintiffs includes  
16 screening that would happen in a clinical setting?

17 A. I don't think it's specified that it  
18 need be performed in a clinical setting.

19 Q. And do you have, based on what the  
20 authors in this book concluded, an opinion as to  
21 whether it should or should not be performed in  
22 that setting?

23 A. I have the opinion that the sentence  
24 beginning "Findings should not be extrapolated to  
25 preventive interventions performed in other

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

138

1 settings" could have been further elaborated by  
2 the authors because I think this is their  
3 intention such that the sentence would read:  
4 Findings should not be extrapolated to preventive  
5 interventions performed in other settings because  
6 in those settings the screening tests are likely  
7 to be less effective.

8 Q. But the conclusions of the authors in  
9 this report were limited to only those screenings  
10 performed in the clinical setting?

11 A. Surely, but the important notation is  
12 that if you are thinking of performing screening  
13 in a larger, less selected population than the  
14 population that occurs among self-selected  
15 individuals who present themselves to the  
16 physician, that is, the clinical setting, there  
17 the -- in the larger, less selected population,  
18 the results are going to be even more problematic  
19 for any screening test than in the clinical  
20 setting. The ratio of false positives to true  
21 positives will be larger in the less selected  
22 population.

23 Q. Knowing what you know about Dr.  
24 Burns' proposed plan, are there aspects of his  
25 plan that could be done outside of a clinical

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

139

1 setting?

2 A. Addressing the plan that is the plan  
3 that I have seen, the one that's called the  
4 Revised Report, the limitation on where the  
5 various tests could be performed is entirely a  
6 pragmatic one. It relates to physical facilities,  
7 and the sufficiency of creating an appropriate  
8 environment where that can be done appropriately,  
9 and that the tests can be interpreted skillfully.

10 Q. Earlier, and I believe you were  
11 discussing the plaintiff's proposed plan at this  
12 time, you said that the -- and I'm hoping I'm

13 paraphrasing correctly, the plaintiffs' plan was  
14 comprehensive, extensive, and expensive. Does  
15 that ring a bell at all?

16 A. Sounds like something I might have  
17 said. It's been a long time, and it is all those  
18 things.

19 Q. What cost information have you  
20 reviewed for purposes of the plan that's enclosed  
21 in Dr. Burns' report? Have you reviewed anything  
22 specifically?

23 A. No. I haven't.

24 Q. If it was cheaper to perform some of  
25 these aspects outside of a clinical setting, how

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

140

1 would that factor into your opinion on the plan?  
2 Would you give up the expense for the less or the  
3 more likely to have false positives or false  
4 negatives outside of the clinical setting just to  
5 make it least expensive? Do you follow what I'm  
6 saying?

7 A. Your question took an unexpected turn  
8 right at the end.

9 Q. Let me rephrase it.  
10 If it would make the plan, overall  
11 cost plan of the plaintiffs' program less  
12 expensive to perform some of the services or some  
13 of the screening tasks that are promulgated in  
14 here outside of the clinical setting, would you be  
15 in favor of that solely to bring the cost of the  
16 plan down knowing that doing that would increase  
17 the likelihood of the inherent problems you had  
18 doing screening outside of a clinical context?

19 A. Yeah, I'm afraid I have been  
20 misunderstood.

21 The inefficiencies, we might call  
22 them that, of performing a screening program, any  
23 screening program at all in a less selected  
24 population relates not to the physical environment  
25 in which the test is performed, but rather that

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

141

1 the test, which has certain sensitivities and  
2 specificities is now being applied to a  
3 population, as an unselected population, in which  
4 the true occurrence of disease is lower, and when  
5 that happens, the performance characteristics of  
6 the test are affected adversely. The less you  
7 select the population that you are applying the  
8 test to, the higher the ratio of false positives  
9 to true positives, you get more noise than you get  
10 action, and then you have to deal with all the  
11 noise.

12 As to the question of expense, which  
13 is not a question I have addressed in any expert  
14 fashion, clearly a characteristic of any screening  
15 program is to do it in as efficient and cost  
16 effective fashion as possible, but that even  
17 though you make the testing more cost effective  
18 does not mean that the results get any better.

19 Q. No, I think we were -- do you see a  
20 lot of patients with breast cancer here at  
21 Vanderbilt?

22 A. Even in my consultative practice,  
23 that disease does not occur very often, so there  
24 again I think you meant when you said you, you  
25 mean me personally.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

142

1 Q. You personally, yes.

2 A. Yeah, we have a big breast cancer  
3 diagnosis treatment center here, but that turns  
4 out not to be a source of many infectious disease  
5 consultations, which means that they are doing  
6 things right.

7 Q. Do you know what criteria for  
8 screening of breast cancer they use here at  
9 Vanderbilt?

10 A. I don't.

11 Q. Do you know what the generally  
12 accepted principles by the major medical  
13 associations are for screening of breast cancer in  
14 the United States?

15 A. I don't. I'm not expert in that  
16 area.

17 Q. Okay. Do you have an opinion as to  
18 whether women over 40 years or 50 years old should  
19 be evaluated by their physicians prior to having a  
20 mammogram performed?

21 A. I have no opinion on that.

22 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
23 the question. Go ahead.

24 THE WITNESS: I haven't got any  
25 opinion on that.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

143

1 BY MR. JEKEL:

2 Q. All right. I know you've done some  
3 work with tuberculosis, so I'm hoping you'll have  
4 some information on this. What about current  
5 screening parameters for tuberculosis among school  
6 teachers? Are you familiar with any of that?

7 A. I know there's been some recent  
8 discussion about that.

9 Q. And what has the recent discussion  
10 centered around?

11 A. Well, the principal issue, as I  
12 understand it, has been the traditional one of  
13 identifying teachers such that they will not  
14 transmit tuberculosis to pupils and to colleagues  
15 at work.

16 Q. Would the same be true of healthcare  
17 professionals?

18 A. The notions are entirely similar  
19 except in the healthcare professional, we have a  
20 dual concern, which is because they are at  
21 increased risk of acquiring tuberculosis, we have  
22 a TB control program that is designed to also  
23 detect early disease in them, disease that they  
24 may have acquired, if you will, on the job.

25 Q. And do you have an opinion whether a

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

144

1 school teacher or healthcare professional should  
2 be examined by their physician prior to having  
3 them undergo the screening process for TB?

4 A. No. I don't have an opinion about  
5 that. I'm not familiar with the various proposals  
6 or current procedures in those areas in different  
7 school districts.

8 Q. What are the current screening  
9 techniques for TB?

10 A. They have profound limitations. One  
11 would be the -- one that's widely used obviously  
12 is the tuberculin skin test. That detects past  
13 exposure to the organism that causes TB, but  
14 doesn't say anything about the current disease  
15 status, so those who have a positive skin test, if  
16 what you are interested in is determining what  
17 their current disease status is require a clinical  
18 evaluation that includes a chest X-ray.

19 Q. And which of the screen mechanisms do  
20 you find as it relates to TB most likely to give  
21 you a true result?

22 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
23 the question.

24 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm not entirely  
25 sure what you mean by "a true result."

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

145

1 BY MR. JEKEL:

2 Q. If we're looking for whether the  
3 person is currently suffering from TB or currently  
4 can be a carrier, expose other people in a  
5 hospital, is there one screening mechanism that  
6 you believe is more likely to give you that  
7 information?

8 A. Permit me to answer the question this  
9 way. It's frequently -- it is most commonly a  
10 two-step process in which you would first use  
11 tuberculin skin testing, and to define a group  
12 that has a positive test, it then would be  
13 examined and given a chest X-ray. On rare, in  
14 certain defined circumstances, where that process  
15 was thought not to be appropriate to the  
16 population, for example, in large prison systems,  
17 some prison systems have gone to rapid, small  
18 format chest X-ray screening.

19 Q. And to do those two steps -- I'm a  
20 school teacher. I just get hired into the school  
21 district. They want to do these two tests on me.  
22 Do you think it's appropriate for the school  
23 district to do those tests, or is me as the new  
24 teacher, should I go to my physician and have him  
25 recommend that, yeah, you should have the test

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

146

1 done before those are performed?

2 A. Well, I don't know if I have an  
3 opinion on this. In the former example, it would  
4 be a condition for employment.

5 Q. You don't have a choice?

6 A. There isn't any choice involved, is  
7 there?

8 Q. Do you know if they screen for TB  
9 among the faculty and staff at Vanderbilt  
10 University?

11 A. Yeah, we have a tuberculosis  
12 screening control program that includes for those

13 of us with patient care tuberculin skin test.  
14 Q. And do you give the individual the  
15 option of getting an opinion from their physician  
16 before they undergo the skin test, or is it a  
17 condition of their employment?  
18 A. That's a condition of their  
19 continuing to work and to have privileges here.  
20 Q. And have you ever had a situation  
21 where there's been a false positive?  
22 A. Sure.  
23 Q. Did you think that false positive  
24 inflicted serious risk of harm to that individual?  
25 A. The false positive test, the test  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

147

1 that subsequently was found to be false positive  
2 or that we thought was a false positive test  
3 usually does not in and of itself inflict anything  
4 more than a period of concern and consternation on  
5 the part of the individual and perhaps some on the  
6 part of the institution because we would be  
7 concerned that they might have acquired the  
8 infection on the job, but this is quite different  
9 than starting with some roentgenographic screening  
10 process where you identify things that look like  
11 pulmonary nodules. That's a very different kind  
12 of --

13 Q. Now, earlier we talked about -- I'm  
14 going to refer to your expert report again, and  
15 reviewing specifically the plaintiffs' proposed  
16 Medical Monitoring Program, and I wanted to ask  
17 you whether you used any kind of decision making  
18 model in coming up with the statements about it  
19 not being generally accepted and it causing  
20 serious harm. Did you follow a decision making  
21 model, a decision tree, if you will?

22 A. I did not.

23 Q. You did not?

24 MR. LATHAM: Just for the record,  
25 he's referring to the expert disclosure, Exhibit

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

148

1 1.

2 MR. JEKEL: I'm sorry. Yes.

3 MR. LATHAM: That's fine.

4 BY MR. JEKEL:

5 Q. I'm just going to hand you a portion  
6 of a document by Dr. Eddy. It's called "Common  
7 Screening Tests," and before we go through it,  
8 I'll ask you a couple of simple questions. Have  
9 you ever seen that document before?

10 A. I have not seen this document.

11 Q. As you sit here today, are you in a  
12 position to agree or disagree with statements  
13 contained therein?

14 A. Surely not.

15 My familiarity, my general  
16 familiarity with Dr. Eddy notwithstanding.

17 Q. Do you know Dr. Eddy?

18 A. I don't personally, but he's -- it's  
19 a name that's familiar to me.

20 Q. And is it familiar in the field of  
21 designing a screening test similar to what we have



22 been talking about here this afternoon?  
23 A. Well, this is an area in which Dr.  
24 Eddy at least used to write fairly extensively,  
25 and he was considered an authority. I think he's  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

149

1 kind of semi-retired now.  
2 Q. But you don't have any opinion as to  
3 whether this text is still authoritative as it  
4 relates to screening?  
5 A. I haven't seen this text.  
6 Q. Would you agree that evidence  
7 directly connecting the application of a screening  
8 test with the occurrence of a health outcome would  
9 be rare?  
10 A. I'm sorry.  
11 Q. It's my shorthand. Talking about  
12 connecting a screening test with a health outcome,  
13 chest X-ray, lung cancer, do you follow me there?  
14 A. I --  
15 Q. Screening?  
16 A. I wouldn't usually define the  
17 detection of lung cancer as the health outcome;  
18 that's the detection of the disease.  
19 Q. Okay.  
20 A. The health outcome would be improved  
21 survival, reduced mortality.  
22 Q. Very well. That's fine, too.  
23 Do you think, using those two  
24 examples, the extending the benefit, the life, do  
25 you think that it's rare that you find the

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

150

1 screening directly linked to the outcome?  
2 A. Certainly not in infectious diseases  
3 in the ones that I have been involved with.  
4 Q. In what cases have you seen direct  
5 correlation with the screening mechanism and the  
6 outcome or the benefit?  
7 A. Well, as I said, we've defined the  
8 outcomes that we desired in a very specific way so  
9 that when we instituted the screening program, for  
10 example, we were able to define those people in  
11 the intensive care unit that were colonized with  
12 that resistant bacteria, we were able then as a  
13 consequence to isolate those patients more  
14 securely, and in due course we saw a reduction in  
15 that intensive care unit of the occurrence of  
16 transmission of that bacteria. That was the  
17 result. It's very tight.  
18 Q. Right. But doesn't that also suffer  
19 the same problem that you talked about with the  
20 Lancet study, that it's only a very local  
21 population?  
22 A. Surely. But the principles of  
23 working in an intensive care unit in that kind of  
24 circumstance have been demonstrated repeatedly by  
25 a number of different investigators in a number of

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

151

1 different settings so that the CDC and other  
2 expert advisory groups suggest that as a method  
3 that's tried and true, it has stood the test of

4 experience in a number of different settings, it's  
5 been confirmed, and you may well try that in your  
6 own setting with the expectation of success.

7 Q. When you design these screening  
8 programs, were you looking at comparing the test  
9 benefits, harms, and costs?

10 A. Always.

11 Q. Is that an element of every -- in any  
12 type of screening program that you've got, before  
13 you implement a screening program, you've got to  
14 look at the benefits, the harms, and the costs?

15 A. In a summary way, you would like to  
16 look at the benefits, potential benefits,  
17 potential harms, and the costs that are going to  
18 be accrued, that's correct.

19 Q. And who makes that determination as  
20 to whether -- I mean, wouldn't you agree that it  
21 should be the patient who makes that call as to  
22 whether the test benefits, harms, and costs really  
23 make a difference?

24 A. I think the patient and their  
25 physician, obviously, discuss all aspects of their

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

152

1 care, and I do so in the context of individual  
2 patient care, but the question of whether to  
3 institute a screening program as opposed to the  
4 case finding that you were talking about in the  
5 Preventive Services Task Force, this in large  
6 program, in large populations, I think that that  
7 transcends the issues of individual doctor/patient  
8 relationships, and that's exactly where you need  
9 expert advisory groups evaluating the best  
10 possible data providing guidelines about how to  
11 proceed or whether or not to proceed at all.

12 Q. In evaluating the plaintiffs'  
13 proposed program, did you endeavor to talk to lung  
14 cancer patients and physicians who treat those  
15 lung cancer patients to determine what their  
16 opinions on that subject were?

17 A. No. I did not.

18 Q. Can you, given the information you  
19 have on the number of tuberculosis cases in West  
20 Virginia and the endemic histoplasmosis and dog  
21 heart worm disease, can you come up with a formula  
22 to tell me exactly how many false positives or  
23 false negatives the plaintiffs' proposed  
24 monitoring program will turn up?

25 A. I cannot.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

153

1 Q. Do you know of anybody who can do  
2 that based on -- there's obviously data on the  
3 instances of histoplasmosis in West Virginia,  
4 right?

5 A. It would be a very difficult task,  
6 and there are people who are skilled in such  
7 medical monitoring, but you can't solve the  
8 medical model if you don't have certain critical  
9 data, and the proportion of individuals of  
10 whatever age and background in West Virginia that  
11 have lung nodules identified by the various  
12 screening modalities is, I believe, currently

13 unknown, and I think it would be difficult to  
14 extrapolate from other data to that specific  
15 population.

16 Q. What information do you have  
17 specifically about the group of people in West  
18 Virginia that may fall under this program and what  
19 their background would be? Do you know how many  
20 people we're talking about?

21 A. There may have been estimates in Dr.  
22 Burns' deposition, but excuse me, report, revised  
23 report. It is late in the day.

24 But the aspect that I bring to this  
25 discussion is that I know that West Virginia is in

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

154

1 the endemic area for histoplasmosis and for the  
2 dog heart worm and has had in the past high rates  
3 of tuberculosis, so that one can expect some false  
4 positives, the extent to which remains unknown,  
5 but it will be final. It will be real.

6 Q. Of those three -- histoplasmosis,  
7 tuberculosis, and the dog heart worm -- are there  
8 generally trends as it relates to West Virginia,  
9 whether the incidence of that infection is  
10 increasing, decreasing, remaining constant?

11 A. Some slight data, but recall that  
12 these are all infections that can be acquired very  
13 frequently without symptoms and then kind of like  
14 a long fuse, only present as a pulmonary nodule  
15 many years later. Having said that, I believe  
16 there are no data on the dog heart worm or  
17 histoplasmosis, but new infections, new clinical  
18 infections with tuberculosis seem to be declining  
19 in West Virginia in concert with their  
20 tuberculosis control program.

21 Q. Is that --

22 A. Remember, it's the infections,  
23 however, that occurred 20 and 30 years ago that we  
24 are going to run into trouble with today, so it's  
25 noteworthy and to be applauded that there are new

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

155

1 cases of tuberculosis are falling, but they will  
2 have a lesser impact on this particular issue.

3 Q. I understand. As an admitting  
4 physician at Vanderbilt, are there any  
5 circumstances under which you would recommend a  
6 chest X-ray to an asymptomatic smoker?

7 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form.  
8 Asymptomatic for lung cancer?

9 MR. JEKEL: Yes.

10 THE WITNESS: I was about to say that  
11 you don't get admitted to Vanderbilt if you are  
12 asymptomatic unless you are a candidate for  
13 surgery, and then, even then today if you are  
14 asymptomatic, it is no longer routine to do a  
15 chest X-ray, so there would have to be another  
16 specific indication, and, of course, I don't admit  
17 those patients, so if the you was directed at  
18 me --

19 BY MR. JEKEL:

20 Q. I was talking about you as an  
21 admitting physician in your capacity as a doctor

22 of infectious disease when you have admitting  
23 privileges, and you see somebody who may have the  
24 infectious disease, they are a smoker, they are  
25 asymptomatic of cigarette smoke or of lung cancer,

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

156

1 is there ever a situation in which you would tell  
2 that person to get a chest X-ray here?

3 A. With, if I may conclude the thought,  
4 your thought, with the intention of possibly  
5 finding an early lung cancer?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. No.

8 Q. And the policy of not requiring the  
9 chest X-ray at Vanderbilt, is that written down  
10 somewhere?

11 A. It's not a policy. It has become  
12 more the standard of care that in the absence of  
13 specific indication, chest X-rays are not  
14 productive, they're not useful, and so we are  
15 doing many fewer so-called routine chest X-rays  
16 than we did when I was in training where it was  
17 absolutely routine, everybody who was admitted to  
18 the hospital got a chest X-ray.

19 Q. What about items other than chest  
20 X-rays? Have you moved to something else?

21 A. Oh, sure.

22 Q. Instead of the X-ray, are you using  
23 more CT scans?

24 A. Oh, I beg your pardon. I was going  
25 to say that routine laboratory evaluations that

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

157

1 once were common, that is, they were routine, now  
2 are being done on specific indication in many  
3 cases, also, as a consequence of carefully looking  
4 at the data.

5 Now that I have answered my question,  
6 tell me yours again.

7 Q. I think you've given me the  
8 information I've requested, albeit I may not have  
9 artfully asked for it.

10 I know I asked you this earlier. I  
11 just want to -- have you personally, and maybe  
12 it's the opposite situation. Have you personally,  
13 a person comes in, you looked at their lungs, you  
14 see something, you said, you know, based on this  
15 individual's history, I think there's a lung  
16 cancer, a benign lesion on the lung or a malignant  
17 lesion on the lung wherein later on we find out it  
18 was a benign lesion or a calcified lesion. Have  
19 you personally had that situation?

20 A. Yes. Surely.

21 Q. And approximately how many times has  
22 that happened to you?

23 A. Oh, golly. Again, this is in the  
24 context of consultative practice. I can only say  
25 that over the years it has happened on occasion.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

158

1 I'm not a stranger to that sequence.  
2 It's not frequent, but we've seen them.

3 Q. Is it your opinion that in those

4 instances where that happened and you were  
5 consulting that you inflicted serious harm on the  
6 individual?

7 A. Well, you must recall, those are  
8 circumstances in which a patient was already in  
9 the institution being evaluated for more likely  
10 than not a lung problem, so the diagnosis of that  
11 patient's problem was already the agenda.

12 Q. So that the fact that you may have  
13 called it a malignant lesion as opposed to benign  
14 or something else, it didn't make a difference in  
15 that case, and it didn't cause serious harm  
16 because the person was there to figure out what  
17 was wrong with their lungs anyway?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you have any information on how  
20 many lung cancers diagnosed within the United  
21 States last year were operable?

22 A. I do not.

23 Q. In those cases that we talked about  
24 where you consulted and you thought it was a lung  
25 cancer or a malignant lesion or nodule, and it

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

159

1 turned out not to be, do you recall what evidence  
2 you had in front of you at this time? Was it just  
3 chest X-rays, or did it include CT scans, and ever  
4 a PET scan?

5 A. I couldn't reconstruct that right  
6 here as we sit.

7 Q. Do you recall an instance at least  
8 with a CT scan where you made the call with that  
9 data in front of you and then later turned out to  
10 be wrong?

11 A. I couldn't recall a specific patient  
12 right at the moment.

13 Q. You're not putting forth -- you're  
14 not an expert on the treatment of lung cancer, are  
15 you?

16 A. I am not.

17 Q. A couple of things in here I need to  
18 -- I saw some stuff in your pile here that I want  
19 to figure out. For what and how will you rely on  
20 the article I've just handed you, and for the  
21 record, it's the Patts article, "Correlation of  
22 Tumor Size and Survival in Patients with Stage 1  
23 A," it goes on?

24 A. Reliance is a strong word, but it  
25 certainly provided some of the background and

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

160

1 reaffirmed the current statements by the NCI and  
2 others that we haven't significantly improved  
3 survival in lung cancer and reinforces the notion  
4 that even small detection of early nodules may  
5 not, as the authors say, significantly improve  
6 lung cancer mortality.

7 Q. Do you know what types of lung  
8 cancer, cell types were examined in the Patts  
9 article?

10 A. When I originally read the Patts  
11 article, I noted that, but I couldn't tell you  
12 now.

13 Q. Do you consider the subject matter of  
14 this article to fall within your area of medical  
15 expertise?

16 A. It does not.

17 Q. Other than what you -- do you know if  
18 it's a retrospective or prospective study?

19 A. I don't anymore.

20 Q. You'd have to read it again to know?

21 A. Right. But this was part of my  
22 general background reading. It's not central to  
23 what I thought I was bringing to the table today.

24 Q. This is one of the articles the  
25 lawyers for RJR gave you, isn't it?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

161

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. I'm going to hand you a document,  
3 it's an article by Dr. Strauss, "Screening for  
4 Lung Cancer: Another Look, a Different View" from  
5 the March, 1997 publication Chest. I just want to  
6 ask you if you've ever seen it?

7 A. I have not.

8 Q. Are you prepared to discuss any of  
9 Dr. Strauss' conclusions today?

10 A. I am not.

11 Q. Are you familiar with the Mayo Lung  
12 Project?

13 A. Only in a very general way.

14 Q. Do you consider the studies that were  
15 performed in -- that comprised the Mayo Lung  
16 Project an area that you are an expert in?

17 A. I'm not an expert in that area.

18 Q. I handed you, this is from your  
19 stack, Dr. Schaffner, again, it's an article that  
20 deals with the Mayo Lung Project, and if you  
21 would, can you tell me for what or why you've got  
22 this document and exactly what portion of your  
23 expected testimony that forms the basis of?

24 A. Well, I think the attorneys sent me  
25 the article in part at my request to give me some

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

162

1 more just general background information on some  
2 of the very important issues that are part of this  
3 trial. I'm speaking to a small, if you will,  
4 slice of the pie of the whole area, but I'd like  
5 -- I wanted to know a bit more about this.

6 This reinforces the fact that I'm not  
7 an expert in this area, and this is not an aspect  
8 of the deliberations that I will be commenting on.

9 Q. I just want to make sure that when  
10 this thing goes to trial you don't sit up on the  
11 witness stand and say, you know, that Mayo Lung  
12 Project, that told us A, B, C and D, and that is  
13 the gospel. Do you anticipate that?

14 A. That seems -- no, no, no. I don't  
15 anticipate that, no.

16 Q. Are you familiar with the Memorial  
17 Sloan Kettering Lung Project, the Johns Hopkins  
18 Lung Project, and the Czechoslovakian study?

19 A. No. None of those.

20 Q. None of those?

21 Dr. Schaffner, you've never conducted

22 a single study related to the effectiveness of  
23 screening for lung cancer, have you?  
24 A. I have not.  
25 Q. Do you agree that 40 percent of lung  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

163

1 cancers can be detected on an X-ray in Stage 1 of  
2 the disease?  
3 A. I have no opinion on it.  
4 Q. Do you have an opinion or do you  
5 agree that 70 to 80 percent of resected Stage 1  
6 lung cancers result in long-term survival?  
7 A. I have no opinion on it.  
8 Q. I would like to talk to you about, do  
9 you do any screening for chronic obstructive  
10 pulmonary disease in your practice?  
11 A. No.  
12 But that's because of the nature of  
13 my practice rather than any -- that's not a  
14 response that's substantive to the question.  
15 Q. You don't, your area of practice  
16 doesn't see a lot of that?  
17 A. Well, we see infectious diseases as  
18 they complicate patients who have that disease,  
19 but I'm not a pulmonologist, and our environment  
20 people who have principally their main problem is  
21 chronic obstructive disease would be taken care of  
22 by either general internists or pulmonologists.  
23 Q. Would you refer to those experts to  
24 discuss appropriate screening mechanisms for  
25 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

164

1 A. Appropriately qualified experts in  
2 that area, certainly.  
3 Q. And do you consider yourself one of  
4 those individuals?  
5 A. I do not.  
6 Q. Do you consider yourself an expert in  
7 heart disease such that you can discuss the  
8 various modalities for screening for heart  
9 disease?  
10 A. No.  
11 Q. Does any part of your practice  
12 utilize exercise stress tests?  
13 A. No.  
14 Q. I want to go back. A few times  
15 during the break, I just want to ask you, did you  
16 discuss the substance of your testimony with  
17 counsel at any of the breaks?  
18 A. Absolutely not. I was so instructed  
19 before this began.  
20 Q. Okay. They did a good job then.  
21 What did you do -- obviously, you  
22 indicated that either last night or over the  
23 weekend you went through this stack of documents  
24 that we identified for the record. What else did  
25 you do in preparation for this deposition today?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

165

1 A. Over this weekend?  
2 Q. No. In addition to all of that.  
3 A. I'm not sure what you are getting at.

4 Q. All right. You reviewed all of the  
5 materials?  
6 A. Since we began here? Or how do you  
7 mean?  
8 Q. No, no, no. I wanted to make sure  
9 that -- well, let's see. You reviewed your  
10 report, right?  
11 A. When?  
12 Q. In preparation, at any time in  
13 preparation for our meeting here today, me asking  
14 you the questions, or maybe not me, but somebody  
15 asking you the questions, you had to do something  
16 to get ready, I presume?  
17 A. Indeed.  
18 Q. And I'm assuming somebody contacted  
19 your office and said, hey, Dr. Schaffner, you're  
20 going to be interrogated on the 28th. Are you  
21 going to be ready?  
22 A. That's correct.  
23 Q. Did the lawyers or did anybody  
24 instruct you what you should do to prepare for the  
25 deposition?

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

166

1 A. Not in any specific way, but I had  
2 discussions with the attorneys, and I reviewed the  
3 materials.  
4 Q. Was it the two attorneys that are  
5 here with us today?  
6 A. Mr. O'Tuel and Ms. Susan Crooks.  
7 Q. When did you meet with them?  
8 A. I met with Mr. O'Tuel -- let's see.  
9 Early last week, and with Mr. O'Tuel and Ms.  
10 Crooks late last week. I can't tell you whether  
11 it was Thursday or Friday anymore, and then both  
12 before those meetings and over the course of the  
13 weekend, this being a Monday today, for the  
14 record, I reviewed these materials yet again.  
15 Q. At any time has Mr. O'Tuel's firm or  
16 other lawyers actually videotaped you and asked  
17 you questions while you were on the videotape and  
18 later showed it to you, and kind of said, you  
19 know, this is good, this is bad, or let you make  
20 those determinations for yourself?  
21 A. No.  
22 Q. Other than, did the attorneys go over  
23 questions and answers with you in preparation for  
24 the deposition?  
25 A. Yes.

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

167

1 Q. Did they direct your attention to --  
2 I know I've only talked about some of the items in  
3 the stack of paper here. Did they specifically  
4 direct your attention to various sections or  
5 portions of articles or texts and the like?  
6 A. I don't recall them doing that, no.  
7 I think we discussed the issues, and they asked me  
8 tough questions. They pretended they were you.  
9 Q. What were some of the questions they  
10 asked you that I didn't?  
11 A. I think you've asked many more, all  
12 those and more.



13 Q. Dr. Schaffner, in general, as it  
14 relates to preventive medicine, do you think it's  
15 not a good idea to try and do something to detect  
16 lung cancer earlier?  
17 A. I think it's a great idea to try to  
18 detect all diseases early as possible if we can do  
19 something about the outcome once we have detected  
20 the disease and we don't do so at unwarranted risk  
21 or in the societal context expense.  
22 Q. But you would agree with me that lung  
23 cancer is by far the largest preventable disease  
24 or is a preventable disease that causes the  
25 largest number of deaths per year in the United  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

168

1 States?  
2 MR. LATHAM: Object to the form of  
3 the question.  
4 THE WITNESS: Oh, dear, I don't know  
5 if I can agree, if I have enough knowledge of all  
6 the causes of preventable mortality in my brain to  
7 be able to agree with that statement.  
8 BY MR. JEKEL:  
9 Q. Do you know how many deaths lung  
10 cancers account for in the United States in any  
11 given year?  
12 A. No. I can't give you that number.  
13 Q. Would it surprise you if it was over  
14 140,000?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. Would you agree with me that lung  
17 cancer is a preventable disease?  
18 A. Yes. Some forms of lung cancer, yes.  
19 Q. And, again, you don't have any  
20 information as it relates to all lung cancers, the  
21 percentage of those that are related to smoking  
22 versus other causes?  
23 A. I don't.  
24 MR. JEKEL: Well, I think that's all  
25 I have. I would like to at least reserve on the  
A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

169

1 record, I'm sure this would be something a judge  
2 or counsel takes up, but if Dr. Schaffner is going  
3 to issue a supplemental report based on changes in  
4 discovery and all of the limitations he had in his  
5 report that we at least be given an opportunity to  
6 discuss those supplements.  
7 MR. LATHAM: We'll decide that at a  
8 later date.  
9 MR. JEKEL: Well, I got it on the  
10 record.  
11 Dr. Schaffner, thank you very much.  
12 I appreciate your cooperation.  
13 MR. LATHAM: No questions for us.  
14 MR. JEKEL: Anybody on the phone have  
15 any questions?  
16 ATTORNEY ON PHONE: No.  
17 Is the court reporter still there?  
18 MR. JEKEL: Make requests for copies  
19 of transcripts, please.  
20 (Whereupon, the deposition was  
21 concluded at 5:33 p.m.)

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A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

170

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FURTHER THIS DEPONENT SAITH NOT.

SWORN to before me when taken,  
August 28, 2000.

Nancy Satoloe, Notary Public  
State of Tennessee at Large

My commission expires: 10-25-03

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES

171

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CERTIFICATE

I, WILLIAM SCHAFFNER, MD, having read the  
foregoing deposition, Page 1 through Page 170, do  
herewith certify said testimony is a true and  
accurate transcript, with the following changes  
(if any):

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WILLIAM SCHAFFNER, MD

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Notary Public  
My commission expires:-----  
Date of Deposition: August 28, 2000

A. WILLIAM ROBERTS, JR. & ASSOCIATES